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THE NEWSPAPER FOR ASHFORD, TENTERDEN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



Issue No 17

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January 2, 2008

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS AND ADVERTISERS

TOWN BRACED FOR SUNDAY SHOPPING

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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LIVING IN YOUR TOWN

A focus on the Ashford property market

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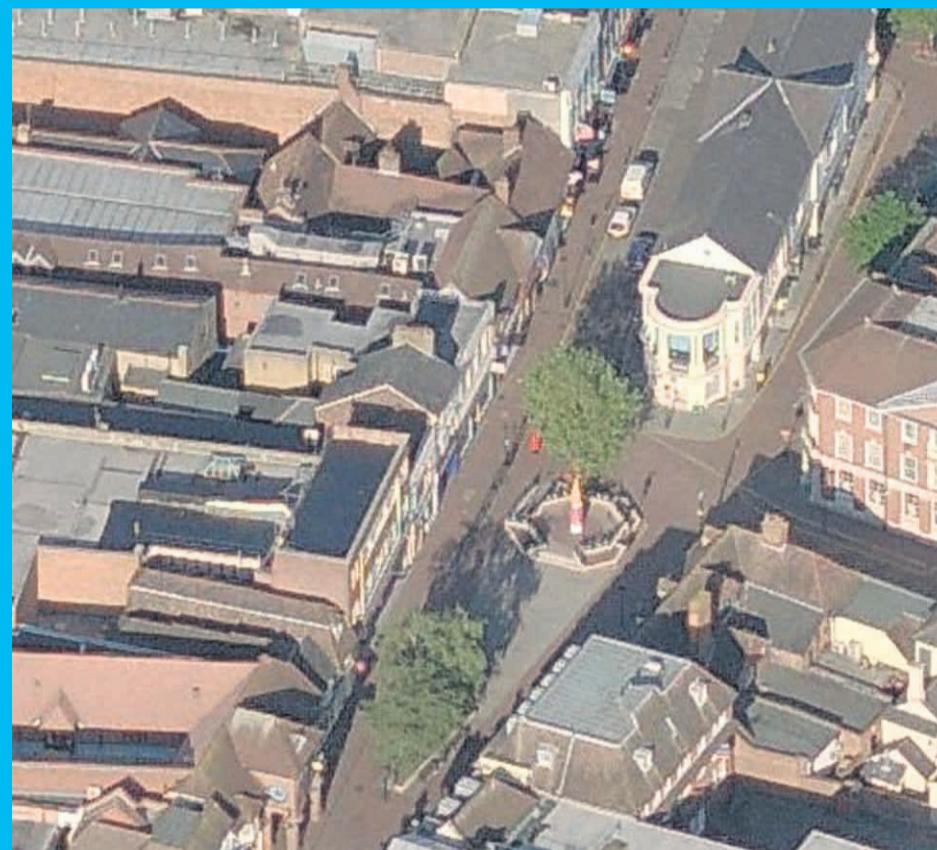
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EXCLUSIVE

■ BY ED HILL

THE New Year is set to usher in seven-day trading in the town centre in a bid to further boost Ashford as a shopping destination.

Talks are underway between all the major retailers in the town to unite and open their doors – with hopes entertainment events will be lined up too in a bid to get shoppers to flock to the town.

Despite Sunday shopping being widely embraced by other towns and the shopping giants such as Bluewater and Lakeside, many retailers in Ashford have been resistant.

But in a bid to make the town flourish, all that could be set to change.

Viv Kenny head of the Town Centre Partnership which represents the town's retailers, said: "We are absolutely behind this. The town will have to look at seven-day trading especially when the new extension to County Square opens in March. I think the rest of the town needs to appreciate that fact."

"I am surprised that it has taken more shops in Ashford so long to adopt seven day trading. When you look at many other towns they have done the same."

"I realise that it is difficult for the smaller independent traders and I understand that they want to have at least one day off a week but I think that this is the way that most towns have to go these days."

Frances Burt, commercial manager of County Square says it is already seeing the benefits of opening on a Sunday.

She said: "We have been open for Sunday

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

TRADING UP TO A 7-DAY WEEK

The town centre will be transformed into a major shopping hub on Sundays if plans currently under discussion get the go-ahead. Entertainment will also be lined-up to woo the public.

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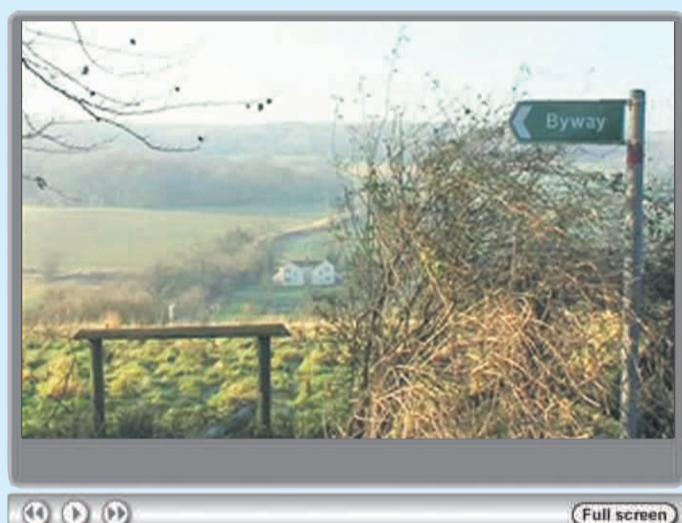
Where shoppers go to town



WHAT'S ON & WATCH
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TOP TV CLIPS



1 In one of her last interviews in England Benazir Bhutto discussed the threat from Al-Qaeda. See **Community TV**



2 How you can help preserve one of England's most beautiful landscapes. Search for Kent Downs on **Community TV**



3 Puppet reporter Ken Tishman looks at the controversial issue of wind farms in the county. See **Community TV**

SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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Avoid quick fix loans in the New Year

■ BY ED HILL

THE Christmas shopping spree is over and bargains have been snapped up in the sales, but those looking to juggle their debts in the New Year are being warned against quick-fix options.

The town's Citizens' Advice Bureau is advising against taking a consolidating loan as a short-term solution – and to avoid falling victim to the increasingly sophisticated sales techniques deployed by finance companies keen to dig people out of the debt hole.

Last year alone, CAB says it was aware of £7.5million of personal debt in Ashford alone – and with the credit crunch biting, it expected to see more of the same.

A spokesman said: "Some may choose a consolidation loan to deal with their financial situation. In its simplest term a debt consolidation loan transfers the monies owed into one loan with a monthly repayment. But it is not that straightforward."

They go on to warn of the pitfalls related to these sorts of loans.

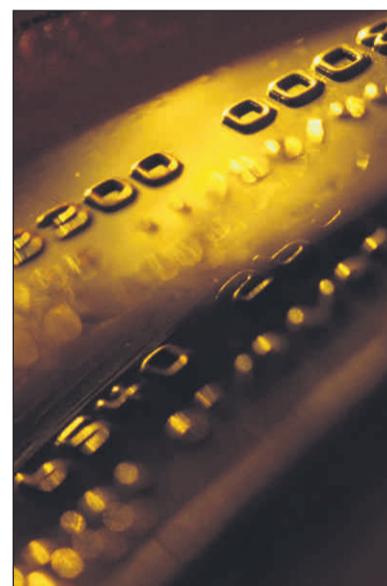
"Many people do take out loans when they can afford it but if something goes wrong such as a loss of job, illness or separation, this has a serious impact on their ability to cope and repay," the spokesman said.

The bureau is critical also of some of the sales techniques used by the loan companies.

They added: "People are bamboozled by some brokers and our experience shows there are a lot of bad business practices out there."

"People do not get the help and advice they need about the risks and the realistic long-term costs. It makes it very hard for people to make a proper informed decision."

The centre mentions cases where there appear to have been no checks



WARNING: Take extra care choosing a loan to pay off debts run up over Christmas, says CAB

on the ability of people to repay the loan. This can put people at risk of having their home repossessed.

It warns people to be sure they can afford the monthly repayments and that missing an instalment can have serious consequences.

The spokesman said: "It may look affordable on paper but then reality kicks in. If you are in any doubt you should contact the bureau before signing any agreement."

The centre says that it saw debt inquiries rise by 22 per cent in the town last year and that current trends suggest that the figure will be much higher next year.

The centre has leaflets this year giving practical advice on how to avoid the Christmas debt hangover.

The Citizens Advice Bureau is on Norwood Street, offers free and confidential advice on debt as well as legal and other problems.

If you would like to discuss the matter with an advisor you can arrange an appointment or call 01233 626185 or email cab@ashford1085.freemail.co.uk.

Town wants to reap the benefits

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

trading for two years. We would say three quarters of our shops now open then. The number of people coming has increased by around 50 per cent."

County Square's expansion is likely to put further pressure on others to follow suit, with major chains such as Next and Debenhams opening for business when work is complete.

Mrs Burt said: "We would certainly be behind any push for Sunday trading as it has to be a benefit for the whole town. People come to our centre to shop but they also want to look round the town."

The Town Centre Partnership is hoping that as part of its plans to encourage shoppers into the town, entertainment could be staged in the town centre.

Mrs Kenny said: "We also want to look into the possibility of investing some money so we can put on events on a Sunday."

Ashford council says it is also backing the moves to bring more shoppers to the town centre on a Sunday.

Cllr John Kemp, portfolio holder for development, said: "We continue to work with local traders and the Ashford Town Centre Partnership to make the town a place people want to visit and where they want to shop."

"Sunday is increasingly the day of choice for shopping and as more and more people choose Sunday as their day to shop, traders need to be prepared to meet this need and provide visitors with a good shopping experience."

Nationwide, Sunday has become the second busiest day of the week – behind Saturday – for retailers.

yourashford

NEWS IN BRIEF

Green light for improvements

WORK to renovate the coach station in Station Road, Tenterden look set to go ahead following a meeting of the Ashford planning committee.

Funding for the £250,000 scheme is to come from the Tenterden Improved Project and will receive money from Ashford council and the KCC.

The next stage of the planning process will see the final plans for the scheme being agreed.

Before that both authorities have to agree who will carry out the long-term maintenance of the coach park.

SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE

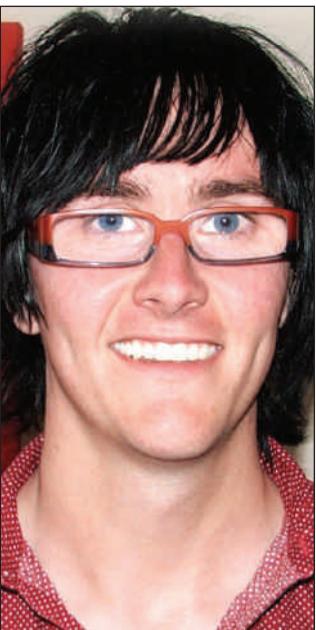
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HIGH HOPES: From left, Rita Hawes, Oliver Winconeck, Damian Green, Lee Rose, Steve Lovell and Viv Kenny all plan to make positive changes for themselves and for Ashford with their New Year's resolutions

Good intentions for 2008

AS the New Year dawns, we asked the great and the good of the town what they hope to achieve in 2008.

While for many, the New Year resolution is broken before January bows out, Yourashford spoke to a host of the borough's movers and shakers to find out what the New Year holds for them and the town.

RITA HAWES, mayor

On a personal level I want to be tidier. I also want to estimate the time tasks take more realistically I am usually too optimistic.

As mayor, I want to visit areas of the borough that I have not so far been to. Lots of good things take place in villages and I like to think I can help to promote the feeling of being part of Ashford borough.

On a wider level, I hope the Greater Ashford Delivery Framework is approved and the opportunities to develop the empty areas in the town are taken up. I would like to see bet-

The healthy ambitions of our town's big cheeses

■ BY ED HILL

ter bus services, including Sunday services to all the urban areas in 2008.

OLIVER WINCONEK, chairman, Ashford Visual Arts

My New Year's resolution is to get on top of all my paperwork and organise some exhibitions.

In 2008 I am going to be creating some public artwork in London and Margate as well as a few surprises in Ashford.

I will be running some arts markets in the town during the summer months and giving local artists and students a chance to display and sell their work. I also aim to squeeze in

some travelling and want to visit New York.

DAMIAN GREEN, Ashford MP

My personal resolution is the same as every year – to eat less and exercise more.

For Ashford, I want to see the new County Square as the symbol of a renewal of the town centre, and by this time next year I want all of us to be able to travel around the town comfortably, safely, and with predictable journey times.

LEE ROSE, manager, Ashford fire station

My resolution would be to make Ashford an even safer place to live by continuing to reduce the deliberate fires and rubbish fires around the borough.

Personally I want to make more time to enjoy my family and not spend so much time at work next year.

STEVE LOVELL, manager, Ashford Town FC

Football is very unpredictable; you never know what is round the corner.

We want to finish the season better than we have started. There has been a lot of speculation about the club, but I believe we can really achieve good things here.

VIV KENNY, Ashford Town Centre Partnership

I think this year I should be doing a bit more shopping.

It will help Ashford and it will worry my husband into the bargain.

Elephant you can't forget heads back

NIMBY the elephant will be visiting the Ashford sales on Saturday.

The life-sized cut out elephant, created by local artist Oliver Winconeck, will be on display in Bank Street from 10am-4pm. She will then make her way to settle for a couple of months at her new Elwick Road home at the old Cattle Market site, opposite Oranges Bar and Cafe.

Chris Dixon, arts project coordinator for Ashford council, said: "The support for this piece of public art just cannot be ignored, so I am delighted we will all have another chance to see Oliver's life-sized elephant in such a prominent site."

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Find out more about the community services on offer at the Willow Centre

Help is at hand for those experiencing the New Year blues

THE New Year is often a time to recover from the excesses of Christmas but the extra stresses it brings can have repercussions long into the future.

Counsellor Chris Bocutt who works from the Willow Centre in Brookfield Road, which provides a range of community services, said: "Times like Christmas and holidays can be a bit of a distraction.

"Often the number of requests for help may reduce at this time. But when that is all over it brings back into sharp focus some of the issues people were struggling with before.

"The real problems come after New Year when the bills start coming in along with the credit card statements.

Realisation

"It is only then that people suddenly realise what they have let themselves in for."

But it's not only debt which weighs heavy on people's minds at this time of year.

He adds: "It is often only one of the many issues that they have to deal with.

"However, most people usually come to me with a personal problem that is causing them anxiety, and often there are many issues that will arise out of the counselling process."

Mr Bocutt spoke of the methods he uses to tackle people's emotional problems.

He said: "I try to help people take responsibility of where they are at the moment and help them to realise that the past has gone and they can't do very much about it, except try and learn from it.

"They have to decide for themselves afresh how they want to be in the future.

"I adjust with each patient to find the most effective way to deal with their problem.

"I also use cognitive therapy as part of my work but I am not a doctor.

"It requires the people to change themselves."

South Kent College

For a selection of courses starting early in the New Year, visit www.southkent.ac.uk/newyear

Places are still available on two full-time courses starting in January:

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(Folkestone Campus)

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- CANTERBURY Cathedral is crumbling because of old age, said campaigners hoping to raise £50 million to save the ancient and iconic Kent landmark.
- MOST of Kent's road users were caught up in the chaos caused by Operation Stack, when police partially close part of the M20 every time the ports of Dover or Calais struggle against the weather or industrial action. Kent County Council shortlisted three sites for use as a giant lorry park.
- MILLIONAIRE Tory donor Stuart Wheeler made the shock announcement he was considering giving money to the Eurosceptic UK Independence Party.

The spread-bet tycoon, who owns Chilham Castle, said he wanted the Tory Party to take a harder line on Europe.

The Kent on Sunday revelation sent shockwaves through Westminster and was the top item in all major news bulletins the next day.



- KOS interviewed the partially blind widow of a war hero who had been left distraught after thieves broke into her home and stole his medals. Commander Guy Clarabut, a submarine captain, was awarded a Distinguished Service Order, Distinguished Service Cross and two Military Crosses for his valiant and brave actions during World War Two.

● THE Bishop of Rochester warned that Britain could return to a "form of barbarism" if the decline of Christianity continued.

Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali described Islam as the biggest threat facing the West since communism and called on the Government to stop being embarrassed of identifying with the nation's Christian roots.

● SINGER James Morrison visited Kent to play a low-key gig at the ABoode hotel's pub in Canterbury as a guest of Invicta FM's excellent Live at the Local series.

Later that week the charismatic 22-year-old was named the Best British Solo Artist at the Brit Awards.



- LOCAL government in Ashford and the regional development agency became mired in a pornography scandal in March. Martin Bacon was the £100,000 managing director of Ashford's Future, the quango set up to deliver regeneration and jobs.

He suddenly resigned and Ashford council and the South East England Development Agency closed ranks. Finally, council leader Paul Clokie confirmed to KOS that Mr Bacon had been downloading pornography on his office computer.

● THIS month it was revealed £2m of taxpayers' money was being paid to council bosses in Kent every year.

The Kent on Sunday investigation into local authority pay packets revealed how nearly all of the county's 16 chief executives enjoyed salaries of around £100,000 a year.

And Kent County Council's Peter Gilroy was the UK's top paid chief executive. He earns £230,000 a year, which is more than the Prime Minister.

● KENT County Council came under fire again this month for wasting £90,000 on a failed scheme to set up passenger flights to America from Manston Airport.

Tour operator Cosmos pulled out and KCC lost all of its cash. The loss came less than two years after EUjet went bust. KCC had also invested £100,000 in that failed venture.

Review of 2007

It has been another eventful year for Kent, with everything from the Tour de France to earthquakes making headlines. Here's the pick of the news, as reported by our sister paper Kent on Sunday, over the last 365 days



- PEOPLE in east Kent suffered an earthquake on Saturday, April 28.

The tremor, which measured 4.3 on the Richter Scale, struck at 8.19am and caused an estimated £20m insurance bill. Thousands of homes were left temporarily without power in Folkestone and Dover.

● THRILLER writer David Hewson published his account of the battle to prevent the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty at Wye from being covered in thousands of homes.

Saved told of the campaign fought against Imperial College, Kent County Council and Ashford council, which were working together to push through plans for a massive housing estate and a science park at Wye.

One of the reviews said: "This book is invaluable for any community, rural or otherwise, whose way of life and environment is being threatened by seemingly overwhelming firepower and resources."



- THE deputy leader of Kent County Council was in the American state of Virginia helping to celebrate the Queen's state visit.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were marking the 400th anniversary of the founding of the first English-speaking settlement at Jamestown.

KCC's Cllr Alex King led a Kent delegation to Virginia.

● KENT on Sunday exposed the injustice of how one third of the county's care homes only got 'adequate' or 'poor' ratings.

Age Concern, Britain's largest charity for old

people, said standards at many of the homes were "just not good enough".

But KCC pointed out that 60 per cent of homes were assessed as 'good' or 'excellent' and less than 10 per cent were 'poor'.

- A POLL by Kent on Sunday showed Tory MPs in the county were overwhelmingly in favour of keeping grammar schools.

And seven out of 15 even said they would like to see more built – in defiance of the Conservative leadership, which had ruled out a new generation of the schools.



- TONY Blair congratulated Kent on Sunday and its readers for its campaign to help the village of Kent in Sierra Leone.

The message of support from the Prime Minister came after KOS delivered a tonne of donated schoolbooks and educational materials to the war-torn country.

- THE Home Office sparked anger and incomprehension over its decision to deport former professional cricketer Hartley Alleyne.

Mr Alleyne was refused a work permit and told to leave after the Home Office ruled his experience did not equate to the two A-levels needed to coach and work as a boarding assistant at St Edmund's School in Canterbury.

His campaign to stay continues backed by Kent on Sunday and Yourcanterbury.

- VETERAN paratrooper Mark Eyles-Thomas recalled the horrors of war in an interview with KOS to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Falklands War.

The 42-year-old, from Birling, told of how he

cradled a dying friend on the frozen slopes of Mount Longdon, the frost-covered strategic mount, which barred the way to the capital Port Stanley.

That night 23 paratroopers were killed, including three of Mr Eyles-Thomas' close friends.



- SOME village pubs could be forced to close by the smoking ban which came into force at the start of July, it was claimed.

The Kent-based head of a national publicans' group warned traditional community pubs that do not serve food were most at risk.

Godfrey Page, chairman of the Guild of Master Victuallers, which represents hundreds of pubs nationally, said the ban would inevitably lead to some closures.

- HUNDREDS of thousands flooded on to the streets of the county to watch the Tour de France make its way from London to Canterbury. On a rare day of good weather in the summer, the event was hailed a massive success, injecting millions of pounds into the local economy.

- THE Sierra Leone blind school choir's concert at Canterbury Cathedral was hailed as a triumph.

Around 700 people watched the magical performance by the choir from the Milton Margai School for the Blind.

The choir received a standing ovation at the finale. Audience members then donated more than £3,000 to the school.

Kent on Sunday organised the concert with the UK charity that supports the school.



- HOLLYWOOD star Matt Damon praised the director Paul Greengrass, who grew up in Kent.

The Bourne Ultimatum, directed by Greengrass and starring Damon in the title role, opened nationwide at cinemas in August.

Damon told Kent on Sunday: "Paul's style about not interfering in what's happening – it comes out of his documentary film-making."

- AN ARMY sniper revealed for the first time details of a ferocious battle in Iraq involving Kent-based troops.

Sergeant Dan Mills is a member of 1st Battalion, the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment (1WP RR), which has its regimental headquarters in Canterbury.

He and a small company of 100 British soldiers held onto a remote base in the town of Al Amarah, in the Maysan province, while fanatical soldiers from the Mahdi Army attempted to dislodge them.

- TV ACTOR Chris Langham was found guilty of 15 counts of making indecent images of children. Langham, of Cranbrook, was later jailed for 10 months, though the sentence was later reduced on appeal.



- NINETY patients died as a result of contracting the superbug Clostridium difficile at hospitals run by the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, according to a damning report from the Healthcare Commission.

The watchdog said there was "a litany of errors" in infection control and criticised the lack of leadership at the trust.

The trust's chief executive Rose Gibb resigned shortly before the report was made public.

- A GROWING number of families were facing unmanageable levels of debt – and experts warned the situation would escalate.

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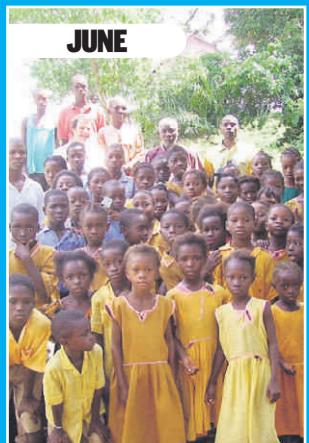
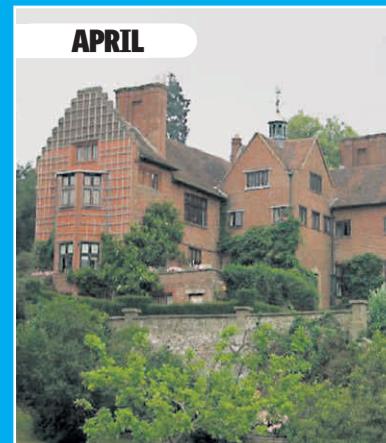
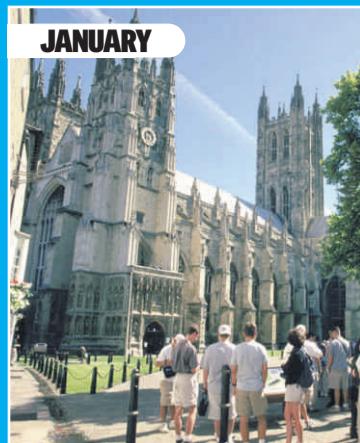
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Nationally, the amount of people losing their homes to debt was up by nearly a third on 2006's figures as a result of interest rates increasing, the commission said.

● LORD Deedes' youngest daughter, Lucy, spoke of her sadness on ending the family's ties with the county after their home was put up for sale.

The former Ashford MP and Daily Telegraph editor, who died aged 94, had lived in Aldington since 1946, but the family home went on the market in September for £750,000.

● THE local media scene received a much needed shake-up when KoS Media unleashed nine new local newspapers and a broadband TV channel. The free Your Local series were greeted with enthusiasm by readers across the county, while thousands flocked online to watch and upload clips to www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

OCT 2007 ● LOCAL radio presenter Julie Maddocks bid an emotional farewell to her listeners after being axed from her afternoon slot by BBC Radio Kent bosses.

Her dismissal had upset colleagues. One told KoS: "It was not Julie's choice to go and it is incredibly sad."

● WHEN Tony Blair bought Gordon Brown an ice cream in Gillingham ahead of the last general election some of his close advisors were "almost vomiting" according to a new Blair biography.

The book, *Blair Unbound*, added: "They're virtually holding hands".

● NEARLY three quarters of all criminal offences committed in Kent go unsolved, figures revealed. The Home Office statistics, released in October, showed detection rates for every type of criminal offence.

Kent police detected 18 per cent of robberies; 49 per cent of violence cases; 29 per cent of sex offences; 16 per cent of criminal damage cases; 30 per cent of fraud and forgery cases and 20 per cent for theft and handling stolen goods.

NOV 2007 ● THE parents of Jake Alderton paid tribute to their loving son who died in the service of his country in Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Jake Alderton, a soldier with Maidstone-based 36 Engineer Regiment was killed in a road accident in Helmand Province.

Keith Alderton, his father, said: "If I could get him back tomorrow I'd have him, but what a fitting person to be that special, last soldier to die before Remembrance Sunday."

● ESTATE agents said the home informa-

tion packs (HIPs) were causing widespread confusion and should be scrapped.

The Government announced that the packs would be extended so that they cover all properties.

Agents in Kent said that HIPs had created more trouble than they have solved.

● TWO bodies were found at a house in Margate. Police discovered the body of missing schoolgirl Vicky Hamilton in the garden of 50 Irvine Drive.

The 15-year-old was last seen in Scotland in 1991. Peter Tobin, 61, has been charged with her murder.

Police later found the body of Dinah McNicol, who was last seen in Surrey in 1991.

● UNMANNED police spy planes could soon be patrolling the skies over Kent on the hunt for smugglers, criminals and erratic drivers. Cops are planning to introduce the lightweight drones, currently being used by the military in Iraq and Afghanistan, by 2012.

DEC 2007 ● THE South East England Development Agency was branded a costly talking shop responsible for a "chronic, systematic waste of public money".

The quango, set up by Labour in 1999, was under scrutiny after it emerged that its three-day-a-week chairman, James Braithwaite, spent more than £51,000 on taxis alone last year.

The political commentator Leo McKinstry accused Seeda – which spent £195 million last year – of having "a scandalous contempt for the public purse".

● AN ARTIST who is producing an exclusive artwork to be exhibited in Folkestone scooped this year's Turner Prize.

Mark Wallinger won the prestigious award for his work *State Britain*, a precise reconstruction of anti-war protestor Brian Haw's display that stood in Parliament Square before being taken down by police last year.

Mr Wallinger is one of 23 artists taking part in the first Folkestone Triennial, a cultural event in which public works of art will be installed around the town next summer.

● THE ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury made an impassioned Christmas appeal for mankind to care more about the world.

In a special message to Kent on Sunday readers, Dr Rowan Williams referred to recent talks in Bali on climate change. He called on people to help address global warming, even if that meant making sacrifices.

The Bishop of Rochester, meanwhile, was mourning the death of friend Benazir Bhutto.

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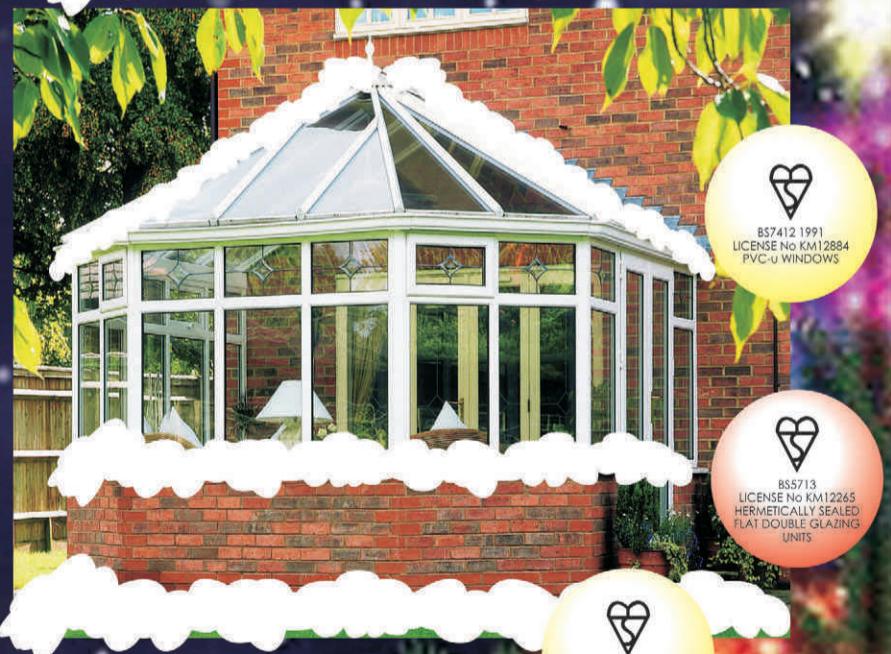
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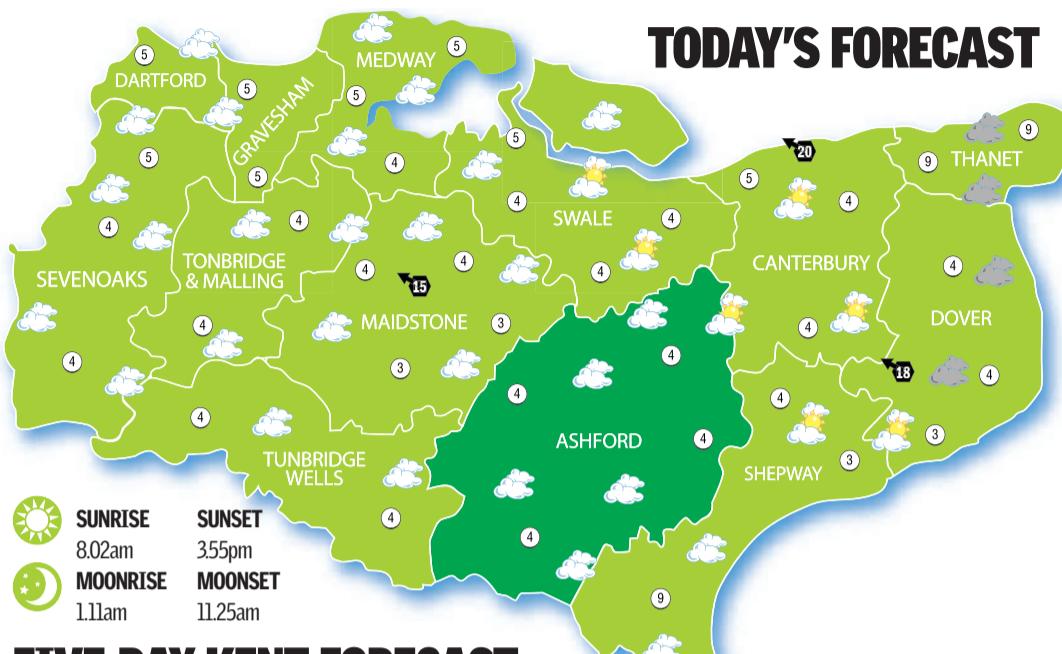
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TODAY'S FORECAST

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	6:04pm	5.1m
	Sunday	-	-
Dover	Saturday	4:21pm	5.5m
	Sunday	5:23pm	5.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	4:22pm	6.2m
	Sunday	-	-
Ramsgate	Saturday	4:50pm	4.2m
	Sunday	-	-
Sheerness	Saturday	5:53pm	4.9m
	Sunday	-	-
Whitstable	Saturday	5:58pm	4.6m
	Sunday	-	-

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	8°C	8°C	4°C	4°C	5°C	Gravesend	9°C	8°C	5°C	5°C	6°C
Canterbury	7°C	7°C	4°C	3°C	7°C	Maidstone	8°C	8°C	5°C	5°C	6°C
Chatham	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C	Ramsgate	7°C	7°C	4°C	3°C	7°C
Dartford	9°C	8°C	5°C	5°C	6°C	Rochester	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C
Dover	7°C	7°C	3°C	3°C	6°C	Sevenoaks	7°C	7°C	3°C	3°C	5°C
Faversham	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C	Sittingbourne	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C
Folkestone	7°C	7°C	3°C	3°C	6°C	Tonbridge	8°C	8°C	4°C	4°C	5°C
Gillingham	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C	Tun Wells	8°C	8°C	4°C	4°C	5°C



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	8°C	Madrid	7°C
Athens	10°C	New York	8°C
Barcelona	10°C	Paris	8°C
Beijing	-2°C	Rome	9°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	28°C
Cape Town	33°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	9°C	Tokyo	12°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	5°C
Hong Kong	19°C	Warsaw	0°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	20°C

Livery geed up by top green business award

THE UK's only organic horse livery yard has been awarded the title of the Kent Environment Business of the Year.

Stone Circle Livery in Woodchurch was praised for its careful waste management and its work creating new habitat and woodland.

Keith Ferrin, KCC cabinet member for the environment, said: "Their example shows how things can be done and encourages others to follow suit. We need to work together to ensure that Kent businesses of all sizes and sectors take their example on board."

Susi Anderson livery manager at Stone Circle said: "We are delighted to have done so well in these awards because our success recognises the importance we place on environmental issues at the core of our business philosophy."

New Year to see bus services increased

BUSES from the Sainsbury's supermarket in Simone Weil Avenue are set to increase.

As of the New Year, services will be increasing from 13 a day to 21.

The free buses will be run by Bzee Buses and will have disabled access for wheelchair users.

The service times of the buses will also be extended. They will now run on Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 2.30pm.

Stagecoach's 652 Canterbury to Ashford and 510 Ashford to Maidstone services will continue to call at the store.

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Sat 22nd Dec	9:00am-2:00pm	Fri 28th Dec	10:00am-4:00pm
Sun 23rd Dec	CLOSED	Sat 29th Dec	9:00am-6:00pm
Christmas Eve	CLOSED	Sun 30th Dec	10:00am-4:00pm
Christmas Day	CLOSED	Mon 31st Dec	10:00am-4:00pm
Boxing Day	CLOSED	New Year's Day ...	10:00am-4:00pm
Thur 27th Dec	10:00am-4:00pm	2nd Jan 2008	Normal Hours Resume

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QUESTION & ANSWER

TIM GAINFORD



Q & A

Tim Gainford, telecommunications project manager at Ashford's Future is spearheading a transformation in the town's high-tech infrastructure. He explains a bit about what his role involves to **Chris Britcher**

Q What is your role at Ashford's Future and what attracted you to the position?

A I'm the telecommunications project manager, and my role is to develop the broadband strategy for Ashford and put together a business plan for delivering that strategy. I'm working closely with some of our partners at SEEDA, English Partnerships and Kent County Council to do this.

We want to see homes and businesses in the area connected with fibre-optic cable, rather than the traditional copper network, as this will give us a world-class infrastructure, and will serve our town for decades to come.

Fibre will give us massively quicker broadband, attract lots of highly-skilled highly-paid jobs to the town, and let us watch HD TV channels and video-on-demand at home, as well as bringing significant community benefits.

Part of my role is working with existing operators, developers and businesses to get fibre into all new developments.

Although fibre to the home has been in place in other countries for some years, the UK is in the early stages of planning the network that, eventually, will serve the entire nation. Ashford is in the vanguard of this change and this was the main attraction of the role to me.

Q What are the key goals you and your team have set for the town over the coming months and years?

A By next spring I want to have our strategy finalised. I am also hoping to have the first pilot scheme under way; this is crucial as the

results of this will influence how fibre will be deployed nationally.

In five years time we will have quite a lot of fibre in the town, and the benefits will be there for everyone to see.

Q You have ambitious plans in terms of enabling residents and businesses with high-speed, fibre-optic broadband connections; how will this bring prosperity to the town?

A We know that network infrastructure is one of the top factors businesses look at when deciding where to locate.

We also know that the knowledge economy, – high tech manufacturing, research and development, business and financial services and so on – is the area that has shown the biggest growth in jobs across Europe and will continue to expand over the next decade.

These types of businesses are under-represented in Ashford, and we want to ensure a good proportion of the 28,000 new jobs to be created up to 2031 are in this sector. Indirectly this will also help existing businesses as they'll expand to serve these new companies.

Q Do you believe Ashford would benefit from becoming more focused on a particular industry or sector and thus be a town whose reputation in a certain field proceeds it?

A It would be great to have an international reputation, but it doesn't have to be in one particular area.

There is a risk in relying heavily on a single employer or sector, because if they run into difficulty it can have a devastating impact on a town the size of Ashford. I'd like to see a more

diverse local economy, with perhaps a technology or creative media hub.

Q How long have you lived in the town – and what's your personal view of it?

A I've lived here for 15 years. I like the town; it's generally a safe, pleasant environment with good facilities, and has lots more planned.

Q What are the things you would most like to change about the town?

A The negative image it has in some quarters is totally unjustified. This is a nice place, with none of the problems associated with inner city deprivation, and there is a lot for us to be collectively proud of in our town.

Q What is your career background – and what skills can you bring to bear on this job?

A I served in the army and then trained as a nurse. Later I became a surveyor. After three years I left to set up a telecoms consultancy, still working on mobile networks, but branching into traditional development. More recently I worked for a housing association heading the development programme. I have a wide range of skills in telecoms networks, property development, and business, all of which will be essential in this job.

Q What will your New Year's resolutions be for 2008?

A Do I have to have one? I prefer targets, one is to pass my Open University course.

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1 Wild about a baby gorilla

Amazing footage of the first gorilla to be born in the wild to reintroduced parents. The film's been released by the Canterbury-based Aspinall Foundation. The baby was born in the Republic of Gabon to wild-born orphans, 10-year-old Lekedi and 12-year-old Marco.



Full screen

2 Signs that buzzards are back

Some of the most exciting video for bird watchers during 2007 was this film of the Common Buzzard flying above Selsted near Folkestone. The pair were filmed by KOS cameraman Paul Jerreat, proving the birds are re-establishing themselves in the county.



Full screen

3 Cheers to helping war heroes

Reporter Nick Ames' short film tells how Faversham-based brewer Shepherd Neame has chosen to back the Help for Heroes campaign. All the cash raised from the charity will be going to help soldiers who have been injured in action.



Full screen

4 Learn how to lay a hedge

No longer a dying art, this video gives a brief introduction into hedge laying and is useful for anyone considering going along to the course in Hawkinge on January 6. You can try yourself or just go along to watch between 10.30am and 3.30pm in Crete Road.



Full screen

SPORT TV



A futsal coach teaching youngsters football skills

BUSINESS TV



Meet the mums who launched a child-friendly business

PROPERTY TV



Watch videos on the best of the county's property hotspots

LEISURE TV



Author David Hewson discusses his best-selling thrillers

MOTORS TV



Motoring editor Steve Loader on a car for the iPod generation

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Uncovering the county's history

■ BY JENNA PUDELEK

BENEATH the Garden of England lie the remains of past civilisations from the earliest period of human history to the emergence of the Kingdom of Kent and beyond.

The archaeological richness of the county is explored in a new book that reveals how each new development in Kent, both major and minor, brings us closer to the past.

The Archaeology of Kent to AD 800 is edited by John Williams who is head of heritage conservation at Kent County Council.

Part of Mr Williams' job at KCC is to ensure the county's archaeological heritage is safeguarded and investigated through the planning process.

With 160,000 new homes planned for the Thames Gateway and areas including Ashford and Maidstone undergoing major growth he has his work cut out.

He said ancient sites were being discovered everywhere that the growth agenda has an impact.

"We have been able to revise our story and get it up to date but the archaeological work is ongoing and we will continue to get major new contributions to the story of Kent.

"Sites are coming up all the time – even since the book has been published there have been some wonderful finds.

"At the A2 south of Gravesend, two very rich early Roman graves were discovered and there were some prehistoric field systems and Anglo-Saxon remains at Ebbsfleet."

Mr Williams told how Kent's archaeology is unique because of the county's proximity to mainland Europe.

Britain used to be a peninsula with the North Downs continuing uninterrupted into Northern France. During later periods of pre-history and carrying on into modern time links across the Channel have continued with the arrival of the Romans and the Normans.

"Kent is one of the key places. There were a lot of Stone Age discoveries in north Kent on the farmland near the gravel of the Thames," he said.

Swanscombe was home to the oldest human

remains in the country until a recent find in Sussex. The skull was from a woman believed to have died 400,000 years ago.

Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon discoveries have been made in Canterbury, which has layers of past generations beneath the foundations of modern stores.

The redevelopment of the Whitefriars shopping centre from 2000 to 2003 allowed archaeologists to carry out a large-scale excavation of medieval and Roman Canterbury.

Jewellery and personal items dating from Anglo-Saxon times show that Kentish fashions in the sixth to seventh century were a fusion of Scandinavian forms and other continental mode of decoration.

The use and availability of luxury materials marks out Kent from the rest of England, said Mr Williams.

Grave

Pendants found in a grave in Sibertswold near Dover include two imported gold coins, garnet and amethyst cabochons, which are gem stones that have been shaped and polished, and decorated millefiori – or coloured – glass.

The pendants and necklaces found unearthed would not look out of place adorning a modern woman, but they are more than 1,300 years old.

Mr Williams said: "The book offers something for both those with a real interest in archaeology and it is hoped that the people with a more general interest in Kent and its past will be attracted by it.

"The joy is its accessibility and that is what we were aiming for."

The book is packed full of colour illustrations and accurate drawings that recreate archaeological sites and digs.

Contributors include Martin Millett, who is Laurence Professor of Classical Archaeology at Cambridge University, a specialist in the social and economic change in the Roman world.

Francis Wenban-Smith, a principal research fellow in the department of archaeology at the University of Southampton, who is currently leading the Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project also contributed.

The book costs £25, published by KCC and Boydell Press from all good bookshops. Order copies from Business Support, Heritage Conservation Kent County Council, Second Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, ME14 1XX.



TREASURE TROVE: Large excavation of medieval and Roman Canterbury (2000-03) at the site of the Whitefriars shopping centre



FINDINGS: Middle Bronze Age gold torcs (rigid necklaces) from the River Medway at Aylesford (can be seen at the Maidstone Museum) (right); (Above) Dress fittings from a grave in Finglesham near Sandwich, which include a Scandinavian square-headed brooch and Frankish bird brooches; (above right) View of the penstocks and wheelpit – parts of an eight century watermill found at Ebbsfleet. It is thought to be the first found of such an early date outside early Christian Ireland

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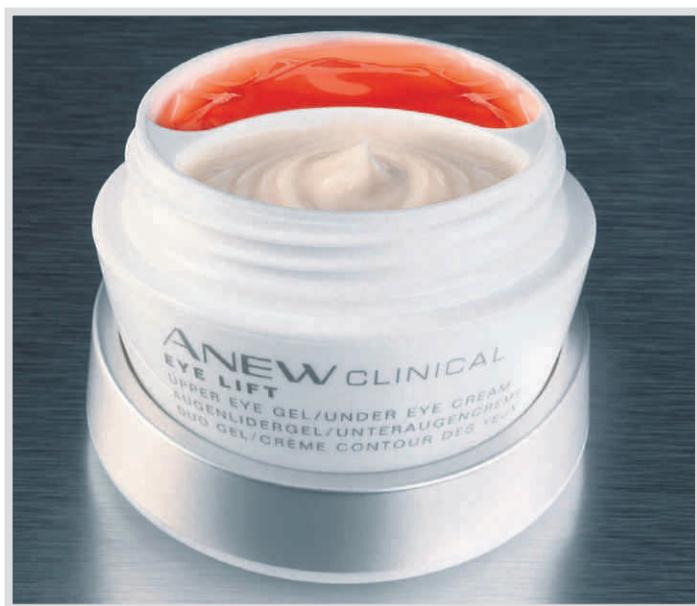


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ASHFORD SHOPPING

McDonald's is spicing things up for 2008

TASTE buds will be tingling this January as the new 'Spice It Up' menu arrives at one of the nation's favourite fast-food restaurants.

From today, customers can keep warm over the New Year with McDonald's spicy new menu. It includes the New Year special, Hot 'n' Spicy quarter and the Cajun Chicken Wrap both from £2.79, and potato wedges with sour cream and chive dip from £1.39.

Oxfam online the place for bargain signed books

FINDING exciting presents for bookworms can be easier with the help of Oxfam.

The charity's online shop sells signed copies of books by a wide range of authors, with some costing as little as £4.99. At the time of writing, the website had signed books by the likes of Spike Milligan, Chris Ryan, Jilly Cooper and Carol Vorderman up for grabs.

To find out more, visit the website at www.oxfam.org.uk.

See this year's best shops go head to head

GAMESTATION, Mothercare and Hotel Chocolat are among the nominees for the Retail Week Awards 2008.

The trio are joined in the Speciality Retail category by Dreams, Bathstore and Mamas & Papas. A host of high street stores and supermarkets have been shortlisted in a number of categories, from best customer service initiative to most impressive advertising campaign.

See the nominees online at www.retail-week-awards.co.uk.

M&S's online shirts are made to measure

FOR a tailored look with less hassle, try out Marks & Spencer's made-to-measure shirt service for men.

Available exclusively online, customers can order individually styled and fitted shirts in just five easy steps. Choose from different fabric and styling options, select details such as stitching and cuffs and even go for a personal monogram if desired.

Prices start at £30 and shirts will be delivered free within 21 days.

Becks brief appearance sends sales soaring

DAVID Beckham's controversial decision to model Emporio Armani underwear has sent sales through the roof.

His provocative appearance in the black and white adverts has prompted a rush for the white briefs in America. The range will not be available in the UK until the spring, but some retailers have reportedly set up waiting lists for the coveted pants.

In the meantime, some Emporio Armani underwear can be found at House of Fraser.

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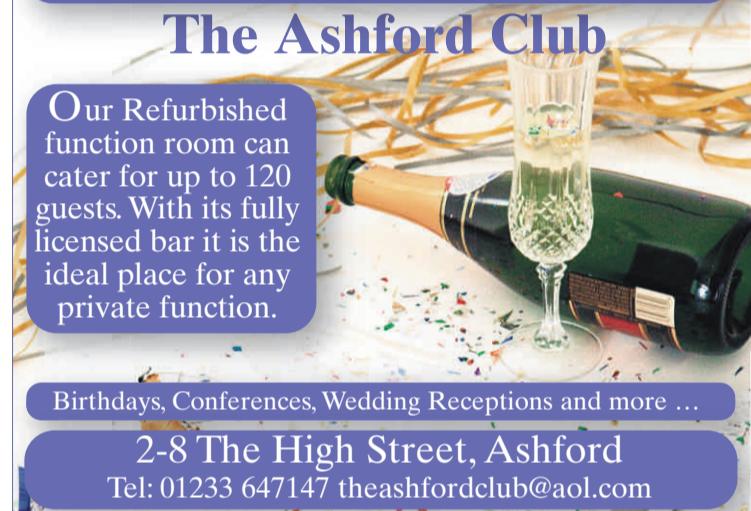


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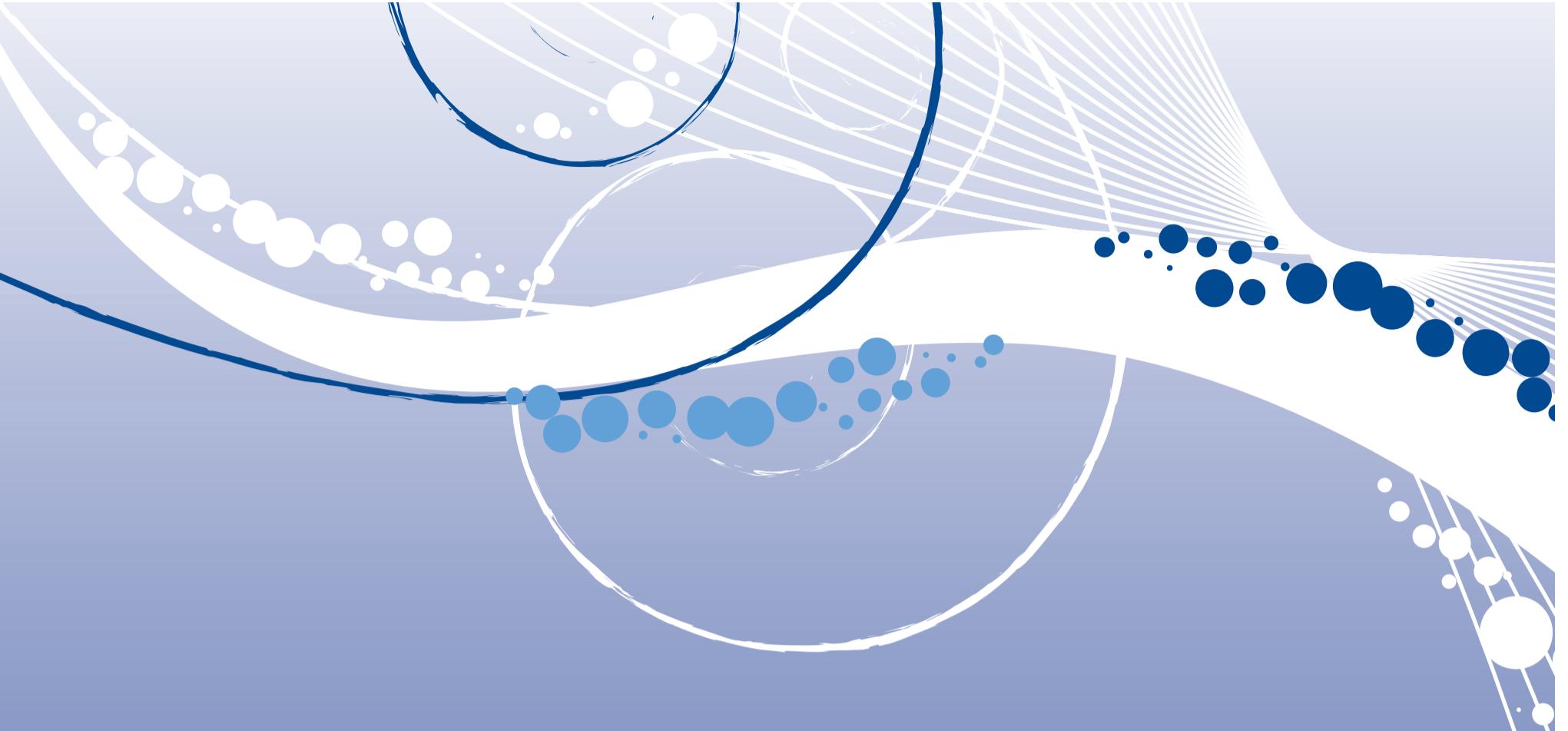
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WIN! An animal adoption box

YOURLOCAL Newspaper has come together with Kent based charity, The Aspinall Foundation, to give readers the chance to win an animal 'adoption box' complete with a tiger, elephant or gorilla cuddly toy, helping the charity continue in their aim to protect and breed endangered animals and return them to their natural habitat in the wild.

"Adopt in a box", encourages children to learn more about the charity's animal protection and conservation programmes, as well as raising funds to support this work.

This is your chance to win your own "adopt in a box". Normally the cost is £25 which includes either a cuddly Tugar, the tiger, housed at Port Lympne or Jara, the elephant, who lives at Howletts, both of whom are featured on BBC TV's Roar or Djéké who lives in Africa. An entry ticket to either park, an adoption certificate, plus fun stuff for your mobile or PC is also included.

The Aspinall Foundation supports and manages Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks, home to more than 1,000 animals and 90



different species.

The parks house the largest captive group of western lowland gorillas in the world; the largest breeding herd of black rhino outside of Africa and the largest collection of African elephants in Europe. The parks are at the forefront of breeding rare and endangered species including clouded leopard, rusty spotted cats, gibbons, drills, black and white ruffed lemurs, hunting dogs, lions and tigers.

This work includes two gorilla rescue and rehabilitation projects in Gabon and Congo.

As well as joint conservation projects in Cambodia, South America and Tanzania, by way of rescue and rehabilitation, particularly of rhinos and primates.

To purchase one of these amazing adoption boxes please visit www.totallywild.net or call 01303 234199.

For your chance to win Tugar, Djéké or Jara,

simply answer the following question: **What are the names of the three animals that you can adopt in a box?**

Send your answer on a postcard or sealed envelope with your name, age, address and phone number to Adopt in a Box comp, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR Closing date is January 28, 2008.

1. This competition is not open to employees (and immediate families) of KOSmedia or any other company associated with it.

2. Entries which are altered, illegible or not in accordance with the rules will be disqualified.

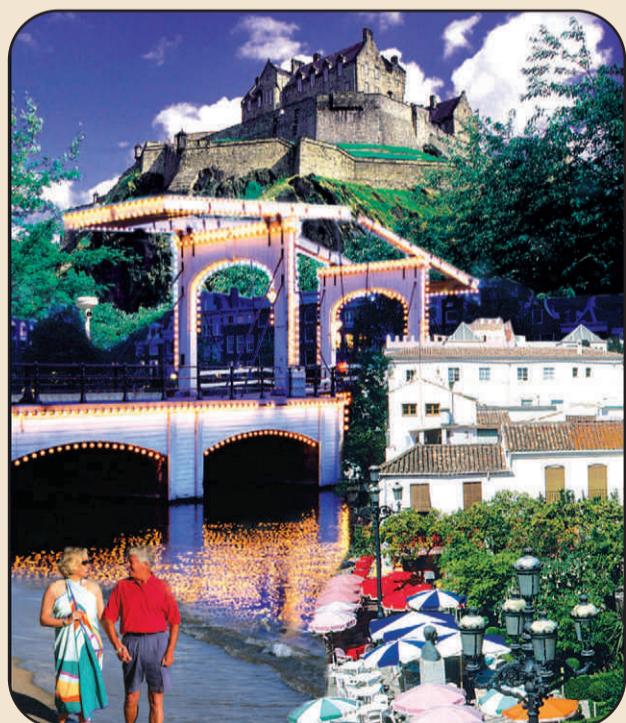
3. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries lost or damaged. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

4. Entries must be received by noon on January 28, 2008 and names of the winners will be published in this newspaper. There is no cash alternative to the prize.

The Aspinall Foundation would like to keep readers updated with its work, including sending out the free magazine, 'WildCry'. Please write on your entry 'NO UPDATES' if you would prefer not to be updated.



BUZZ OFF - SPRING BREAKS



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ANIMAL LOVER

Honest, loyal, caring lady, 32, hard-working, 5ft8, medium build, likes eating out, spending time with friends/family, meeting new people, going to new places, seeking similar. Box 432586

HOPING FOR MORE

32yr old kind, warm female, 5'6", cuddly build, loves walking my dog, cosy nights in, evenings out, WLTM tall, honest, trustworthy male for friendship. Box 430993

LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

DRIVE ME CRAZY

Creative, happy, loving female, 32, 5ft, blonde/blue eyes, seeks kind, warm, sincere, patient male, with a car, to share my life. Box 392354

CANTERBURY TALE

Single mum of 2, 32, would like to meet someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out and cinema. Box 434374

SWEET CAROLINE

Caroline, 32, 5ft10, brown hair, likes going out, having fun, cinema, seeks outgoing male for friendship and more. Box 430933

RESCUE ME

Mum of 2 boys, 32, GSOH, easy-going, seeking an honest, genuine man. Get in touch soon! Box 432066

RING MY BELLE!

Hi, I'm Annabelle, 32, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, divorced, 2 children, WLTM tall, local man, enjoys sport, shopping and relaxing. Tonbridge. Box 420609

DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN?

Susan, 33, long hair, hazel eyes, tanned, enjoys the usual things in life, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 429879

LESSONS IN LOVE

Loving, caring, black African female, 33, school teacher, WLTM caring, honest, loving, open, professional man, 35-50, with good values in life, for something meaningful. Box 422460

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GILLINGHAM GENTLEMAN

Laid-back, 40yr old single dad of 2, like country walks, going out, socialising, seeks female, GSOH, for friendship, possibly relationship. Gillingham Box 409834

HERE'S TO LOOKING FORWARD!

Hello you, if you're fed up with looking back at the past and wondering 'what if?' I'm 41 and I'm your man! Box 909888

NOT TO BE MISSED

42yr old, male, good health, good job, home/car, good friends and family, work hard, like to play when I can, down to earth. Box 913490

LOTS OF SMILES

Warm, sincere, N/S, eligible, stimulating, male, 46, well groomed, OHAC, 5'10", slim/medium, settled but playful, seeks similar lady to share LTR and smiles. Box 924095

LOTS OF LOVE 2 GIVE

Ordinary guy, 49, who likes the simple things in life. I smoke and don't drive. Looking for a partner to share things with. Box 901111

SHARE LIFE WITH ME

Gentle, honest man, 50, dark hair, 5'8", GSOH, looking for sincere, loving lady for a meaningful relationship. Try me. Gillingham. Box 901199

LIKE A LAUGH AND A JOKE

Young 51, good-looking, young-looking, N/S, GSOH, fit, romantic, solvent, caring, likes socialising in life, food/wine etc, for a meaningful relationship. Try me. Gillingham. Box 901199

SHINE TOGETHER

Slim male, 42, 5ft11, genuine, reliable, N/S, likes all the usual things in life, WLTM genuine, down-to-earth lady, for friendship, dates, relationship. Gillingham area Box 425419

PERFECT GENTLEMAN

Widower, 5ft10, 53, GSOH, outgoing, fairly fit, genuine, sincere, scrub up well, like clubs, music, travel, holidays, WLTM nice female, 50-58, with similar outlook. Box 434562

SITTINGBOURNE SUPREMACY

Young 53, 5ft9, likes pubs, restaurants, wine bars, various music, walks, seeking friendship, maybe leading to more. Sittingbourne. Box 429265

A GREAT CATCH

Sensitive, loyal, attentive, playful male, 51, enjoys gym, live music, cinema, meals out, walks, conversation, WLTM female, 45-65 for trust, friendship, possible relationship. Whitstable. Box 181246

ON GUARD

Gary, 55 years old, 6'3", large build, ex doorman, solvent, looking for someone to love and to have fun times with. Box 900009

LOVE TO BE OUTDOORS

56 year old male, 5ft9, easy-going, single, fairly shy, interests include sports, days out, keeping fit, days out, seeking a caring, honest female, to share fun times. Box 433992

ON YOUR MARKS...

Margate man, 37, 6ft3, dark hair, nice build, I work in residential care which I love. I'm down-to-earth, kind, tactile, with GSOH. Box 423437

FANCY THIS

Good-looking male 35, 5'8", no ties, enjoys pubs, restaurants, holidays, bowing, theme parks and more, seeks petite female, to share good times with. Ashford Box 198029

R U 4 ME?

Down-to-earth, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company and conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH

Attractive, caring man, 37, very loyal, genuine, down-to-earth, from East Kent, many interests, it's about who you're with, not what you're doing. Box 423435

ON YOUR MARKS...

Tall, fun-loving, good-looking former athlete, 44, lived in many years, likes music, sports cars, looking for dark haired or exotic lady, GSOH, for LTR. Ashford Box 430121

LOOKING FOR A KISS

Simple, laid-back, happy go lucky male, 56, GSOH, like most things in life, WLTM a fun female to share good things in life. Ashford Box 419677

CHEER ME UP

Hi I'm a genuine, tall, good-looking, easy-going, retired, tactile male, 60, GSOH, looking for fun, intelligent lady, 45+, to share my life with. Box 434226

R U OUT THERE?

Hi my name's Steve, 62, own business, 5'10", blue eyes, short black hair, like cosy nights in, holidays, animals, seek female, for love and romance. Box 423275

HYTHE & SEEK!

Slim, fit male, 63, 5ft10, N/S, blue eyes, own business, home, squirrel etc, many interests, WLTM kind-hearted lady, with GSOH. Box 901915

Men seeking men

I'm Paul, 40, genuine, down-to-earth, 5'9", GSOH, brown hair, blue eyes, average build, likes movies, DIY, theatre, keeping fit, travelling, looking for young male, non-smoker. Box 423252

LOVE TRAIN

Rochester male, kind, genuine, 50yrs, likes steam railways, cooking, country walks, history, reading, looking for that someone special Box 429211

THE GOOD TIMES

61yr old easygoing guy, likes reading, the outdoors, keeping fit, looking for a similar, quiet person, N/S, with a positive outlook in life. Box 428136

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LADY IN WAITING
Cuddly, loving lady, 64, who loves nice conversations, staying in, wine/dining, loves animals, gardening, WLTM considerate, faithful gent for companionship. Box 427579

GENUINE GENTLEMAN ONLY
Kind-hearted, 63yr old lady, looking for genuine, down-to-earth male to share the simple things in life and enjoy life with. Ramsgate. Box 410983

COULD WE BE MAGIC?
Single male, 40 years old, 5ft4, medium build, dark hair, brown eyes, looking for a bubbly, adventurous female, who's fun to be with. Box 433540

A SPARKLE
Hi, I'm a down-to-earth male, 40, 5'7", medium build, green eyes, loves outdoors, sports, beach walks etc, WLTM an outgoing female for good times. Box 899004

WHERE WILL IT GO?
Outgoing, laid-back, genuine guy, 40, looking for a similar female, 25-35, for perhaps a LTR. Box 434398

MAN OR MEANS
41yr old male, 5'10", GSOH, slim/medium build, short brown hair, WLTM a bubbly female, 25-48, for fun and more. Box 434468

TWO'S COMPANY
Thoughtful male, 41, 6ft, shaved head, blue eyes, medium build, good natured, seeking a caring female to share good times Box 899003

THE SPECIAL ONE?

yourashfordblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in the district of Ashford...

Forget those year-round sales and go for cashback

ANSWER me this please: How can there be sales on in the High Street 52 weeks a year?

It doesn't make sense. Nothing has a real price any more. There are just sale prices which are really the real price. And if it isn't on sale, it'll be two-for-one. Or buy one, get one free. What's that all about?

If you went to buy, say, a new house, and the estate agent said: "We're doing two for one at the moment," well, you'd smell a rather large rodent wouldn't you. If you're not convinced, picture yourself in a car showroom: "New car sir? You're in luck, buy one get one free." I don't think so.

But in the High Street women fall for it every day of the week. How many times have you heard your woman say: "I'm just nipping into town to do some shopping" and you nearly choke on your Pringles because she hasn't even unpacked the bags from the last trip.

Yet she beams: "Because there's a sale on." Well, there's always a sale on. But still she goes and still she comes back with another load of old toot that you never imagined, not even in

your wildest dreams, that you'd ever need.

There it is, with the till receipt stapled to the carrier bag shouting 'sucker'. Because it was a bargain. In the sales. As if owning one bread-making machine that has never been used isn't bad enough, imagine having two of them.

I don't want to exaggerate, but if the first bread maker has never been out of the box, what is the chance of it wearing out so it needs replacing with the second brand new one? There's a formula to work out probability, but as I'm no mathematician I'd say the chances are slim.

Yet there's your beloved, grinning from ear to ear because she's bought it for you and saved a small fortune in the process. Now the alarm bells are really ringing because if she's bought that to keep you happy, just imagine what she's gone and bought for herself. I've yet to see a woman with more than two feet but the way they buy shoes you'd think they were trying to kit out a centipede. And they need the dress to go with the shoes and the bag to go with the dress. None of it is quite the right size, but by heck it was all a bargain.

It'll be a few weeks before the full extent of

her bargain hunting becomes apparent but you'll stumble across it all in due course. In the bottom of the wardrobe. Under the bed. Don't be surprised to hear the loft ladder being put through its paces after a little trip to the shops.

But when you ask: "What's all this then?" the reply will bear no relation whatsoever to the contents of the bag you've just discovered. Her jaw will tighten like she's got tetanus. She isn't going to say she needed a new this, that or the other. She'll reply: "It was in the sales."

The way this is going, we'll soon have such a bad credit rating from the purchase of surplus to requirements kitchen paraphernalia (don't even mention ice-cream makers) that we won't be able to afford to put food on the table. But we'll be quids in and have enough unwanted clothes and accessories to stock a small boutique.

Think about it next time you see a 'sales' sign and be thankful that us blokes have the sense not to fall for it. We go for cashback.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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him on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to

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TALK TIME

BRYN PARRY

The organiser of Help for Heroes tells Yourashford about the initiative to improve rehabilitation facilities for injured soldiers



Why did you start Help for Heroes?

Emma and I were privileged enough to meet the wounded at Selly Oak. We walked into a ward of thirty or so soldiers, sitting or lying on their beds, in T shirts and boxers and they were wounded. They were not lying there under white sheets like in the movies, they were on top of the bedclothes and they were missing arms and legs. One man was missing both his legs and his neck was in a brace. He was consoling the son of another soldier who had died in the incident in which he had nearly died; it was profoundly moving. We came home determined to do something, difficult not to want to do something when you meet these people who are so brave, modest and humorous. And so Help for Heroes was born.

The response has been amazing, are you surprised by the scale of public feeling this represents?

No. People are basically good, decent and caring. Sure, we get bound up in our lives, swept along with the current of jobs, families, stress, hassles. We have not become bad; we are just busy. But we have noticed an amazing generosity of spirit coming through Help for Heroes. By stressing that we are non political and non critical, we are enabling people to divorce their lack of support for the wars from their feelings of admiration of those who are fighting them. We can show our support, by donation, for those Servicemen and women who join the Armed Forces to serve their country and are wounded doing their duty. And this has been borne out by the donations flooding in. In nine weeks we have raised nearly £1.5 million! Surely that is unprecedented. The goodwill is infectious, the desire to make this work, to make a difference. People are enjoying catching this virus, this desire to help, to do something really great, to buck the system.

How did Shepherd Neame get involved?

I love the Spitfire advertising which is very much the serviceman's humour so I contacted Shepherd Neame, had a chat and then they flew with it!

YOUR LETTERS

Running to help stop meningitis

Readers in the South who are keen to take part in an exciting new road race – the Bupa London 10,000 on May 26 – now have the chance to join in through some of Meningitis UK's Golden Bond places.

This new race will begin and end in St James Park and much of the course will follow the proposed routes of the 2012 Olympic Marathons. Independent places are now filled but runners still have the chance to take part in this great event through our Golden Bond places.

If you would like to take part in the Nationwide Bath Half Marathon and help us achieve our vision, please contact Emily on 0117 373 7373 for a sponsorship pack.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Emily Knight
Community Fundraising Officer
Meningitis UK

Get on track to help the disabled

The London Marathon is a major date in the running calendar and it would be fantastic if you could take up the challenge for Leonard Cheshire Disability.

I know first-hand how tough running a marathon can be. I had my legs amputated when I was 11 months old and learnt to walk on prosthetics.

A few years ago I had never even stepped onto a running track. But just four years later running has become my passion and I'm a paralympic world record holder. I am close to quali-



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sponsorship. Simply call the events team today on 0870 420 4301.

Oscar Pistorius, Short Distance Runner and Paralympic Gold Medalist

I think it's climate short change

What is all this fuss about climate change?

The weather is the same as it's always been – rainy and wet.

We have had hot summers before and rainy ones like the last on. In my view it is just another way of raising money via taxes.

I don't believe anything this Government says anymore.

Bob Ellis
by email

Fight the urge to keep shopping

One of the most ridiculous things at this time of year is the sales.

We have just got over Christmas and all the furore which accompanies buying presents and now we are being bombarded with useless demands to go and buy yet more rubbish.

Chris Decker
by email

Collar criminals not innocent drivers

We see so many police on the roads at this time of year – all looking to make an easy collar by targeting motorists.

So few people drink and drive these days as it is just not part of the culture of today.

So wouldn't they be better off doing something useful – like catching criminals.

Rosemary Jones
by email

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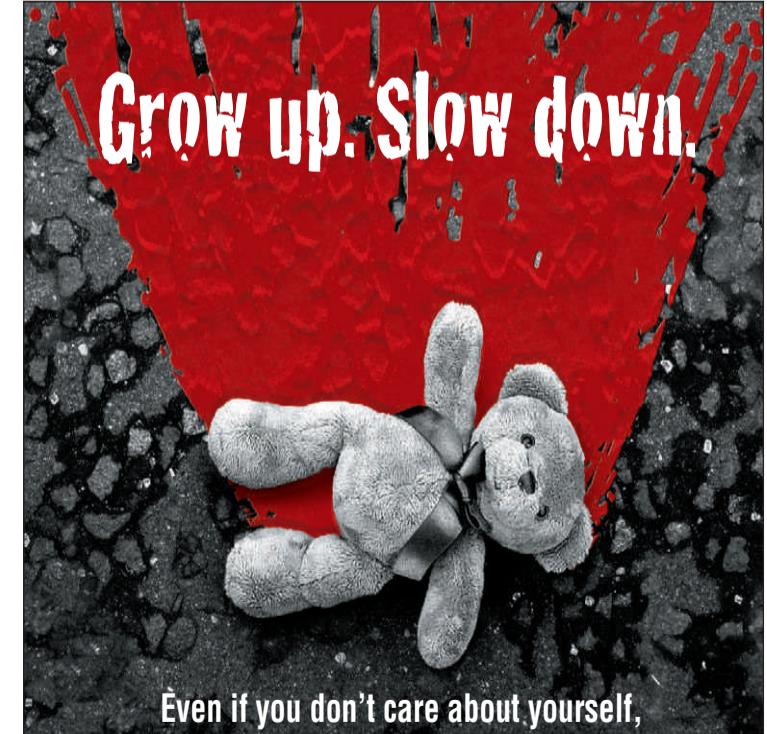
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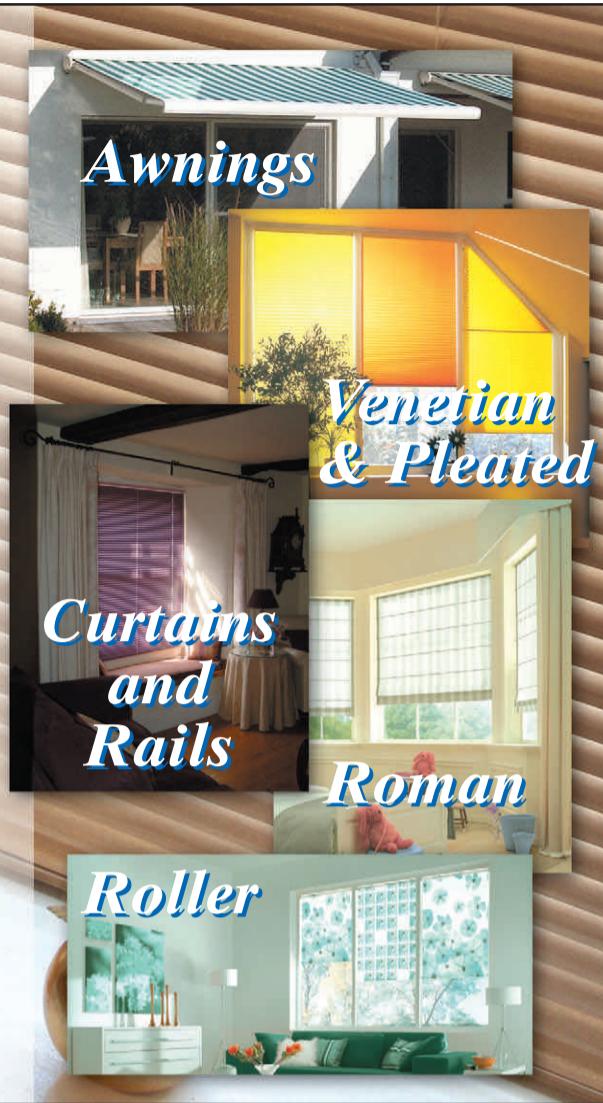
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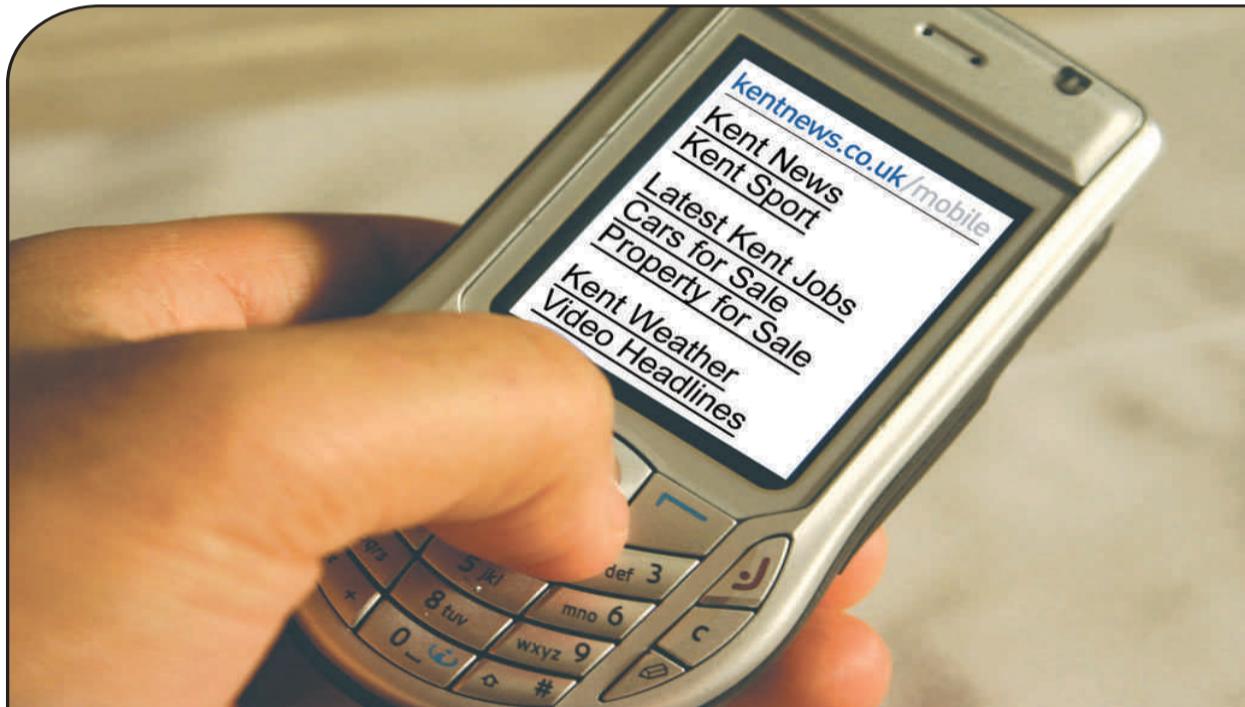
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PICK OF THE WEEK

BBC one

THURSDAY: DIE HARD WITH A VENGEANCE (10.35pm): Bruce Willis teams up with Samuel L Jackson in the best of the Die Hard films. Fast paced action and laughs.

FRIDAY: JAM & JERUSALEM (8.30pm): Jennifer Saunders' star-studded gentle comedy sees Tash prepare for an assault on the Glastonbury Festival – without a ticket.

BBC TWO

THURSDAY: LEAD BALLOON (9.30pm): Jack Dee stars in the last of an excellent series with a call from Hollywood gives Rick something to think about.

FRIDAY: CULTURE SHOW SPECIAL - SIGUR ROS (11.35pm): Another chance to catch the Icelandic band and learn the stories behind their hypnotic tunes.

itv

THURSDAY: MIDSUMMER MURDERS (3pm): John Nettles' Barnaby investigates the murder of a wealthy landowner's wife in the village where they drop like flies.

FRIDAY: THE FUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET (8pm): Matthew Kelly talks to stars of Coronation Street and looks back at some of their favourite scenes.

4

THURSDAY: THE KIDNAPPING OF ELIZABETH SMART (10pm): Documentary on the 14-year-old kidnapped for nine months from Salt Lake City and discovered with a man who claimed to be the Messiah.

FRIDAY: GREATEST COMEDY CATCHPHRASES (9pm): Three hour romp through the nation's favourite comedy quips.

five

THURSDAY: GET CARTER (10pm): Michael Caine stars in the classic gangster thriller from 1971.

FRIDAY: WORLD'S STRONGEST MAN (8pm): Pure brute force on show in the final of the contest in Anaheim, California. Presented by Martin Bayfield.

Has the time come to evict reality TV?

■ BY CHRIS THOMSON

IT SEEMS like a lifetime ago, but it was a mere 12 months since Jade Goody's fragile career as a celebrity dimwit exploded amid the racism row of *Celebrity Big Brother*.

Along with the equally dumb Jo O'Meara (ex-S Club 7) and Danielle Lloyd (ex-Miss Great Britain), their bullying of Bollywood's Shilpa Shetty sparked headlines worldwide.

And while Channel 4 bosses initially rubbed their hands with glee at the increase in viewing figures, they quickly found those same hands holding their heads in sorrow as sponsors jumped ship and the annual New Year goose decided it was not going to lay its golden egg in 2008.

But with *Celebrity Big Brother* 2008 pulled altogether in the wake of the media furore which followed last year's series, Channel 4 have opted to see in the New Year with yet another twist on its money-making reality theme. Enter *Celebrity Hijack*.

The house is still there. The housemates will be thrown in. A cash pot of £50,000 on offer. But rather than the all-singing, all-dancing version going out on prime time, *Celebrity Hijack* will be a more muted affair.

While the opening show will be on tomorrow on Channel 4, it will then become the property of the channel's digital sister station E4.

A sign TV bosses are no longer convinced of the clout the *Big Brother* concept still packs? Or simply testing the water for yet another mainstream assault on reality TV addicts? As ever, the power will lie with the viewer...after all, you decide whether to watch it or not.

In a nutshell, *Celebrity Hijack* will drop into



WATCHING THEM: It was just a year ago that Jade Goody and friends shocked the world with their harsh treatment of Shilpa Shetty on *Celebrity Big Brother*

the house 'gifted' young individuals, all aged between 18 and 21 (gifted with intelligence or the ability to show-off, remains, as yet, unclear). Then a host of celebrities will take turns to be *Big Brother*, setting tasks and causing, so the details of the show boast, mischief with the inmates. They will even be let loose in the behind-the-mirrors camera runs. A nation can hardly wait.

Dermot O'Leary – fresh from his underwhelming role as X Factor host – will host the live opening show. The series will be his *Big Brother* swansong after confirming he is to present *Big Brother's Little Brother* no more.

In truth, he was once a breath of fresh air – but as the housemates for the main show became thicker and thicker in each passing series, so his light dimmed. The words 'sow' and 'silk ear' spring to mind.

His nightly 7.30pm E4 slot for the new show will allow him one last chance to try and recapture past glories before he departs.

But at stake is something far more important: the public's view on reality TV.

Surely now, after eight years of it, we have had enough?

The crowning of X Factor winner Leon, and *Big Brother's*, er, can't even remember his name, underlined once and for all that our apparently endless appetite for the format is surely over. They take 'forgettable' to a whole new stratosphere. We have gorged at its table, been violently sick, and now never want to see another one again.

It's cheap and cheerful telly – no doubt. And the money generated by callers having their say has long since injected huge sums into the bottom line of the TV companies involved. But with each show bringing with it new controversies over phone votes, the trust of the viewer is diminishing rapidly. Not to mention the fact the talent these shows are unearthing really is worthy of picking up a dictionary and checking the true definition of the word.

In truth, hopes of relegating such shows to digital channels – such as the case with *Celebrity Hijack* – will not make financial sense; they rely too much on as wide an audience as possible in the hope a decent fraction pick up the phone.

Perhaps it will be genuine viewer power – via the use of the off switch – which will evict them all from our schedules.



CELEBRITY HIJACK

Channel 4, January 3, then E4 nightly

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NEW SEASON

Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

Theatre's Hamlet and the new production by the Richard Alston Dance Company.

FROM favourite tales to comedy, there will be something for everyone at the Marlowe in 2008.

Yamato, the Drummers of Japan, pictured, will be making themselves heard, as will the Soweto Gospel Choir. Enjoy the majestic grace of Beauty And The Beast On Ice, Northern Ballet

feet to Chas 'n' Dave, there are musical offerings for every taste.

Top TV comedian Dara O'Briain will perform as part of his new tour. Ellen Kent's productions of Madame Butterfly and La Traviata are sure to provide an unforgettable evening of entertainment.

Whether you are yearning to see David Essex in Aspects of Love or tap your

feet to Chas 'n' Dave, there are musical offerings for every taste.

For full details, pick up a brochure or see www.marlowetheatre.com.

NEW SEASON

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

THEATRE fans have a wealth of fantastic shows to choose from at the Assembly Hall Theatre in 2008.

The spring season includes an array of talent from the worlds of music, comedy, dance and theatre, including top comics Jimmy Carr, pictured and Omid Djalili.

Marti Pellow, Elkie Brooks and Paul Carrack will wow audiences with their amazing voices, while Chas 'n' Dave bring their classic brand of entertainment and humour to Tunbridge Wells in April.

Experience the magic of the ballet in Grigorovich's Nutcracker, or witness the passion of the dance floor in Simply Ballroom. See and hear the spectacle of Joseph and His Technicolor Dreamcoat, or relive the glory days of Michael Jackson in Thriller Live. Young theatre goers will have a ball with Rupert Bear and learn how to get fit and active with Lazy Town Live. For details see www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

PANTOMIME FUN

Ongoing

Theatres across the county



FOR festive fun and some real Christmas spirit, nothing beats a good pantomime, so here's our round-up of all the great family shows on offer this Christmas:

The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury: Aladdin. Starring Shaun Williamson, Stephen Mulhern and Dave Lee. Ends on Sunday, January 20. Tickets £8.50-£21.50. Phone 01227 787787, or visit www.marlowetheatre.com.

Orchard Theatre, Dartford: Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs. Starring Wendi Peters. Ends Sunday, January 13. Tickets £13-£21. Phone 01322 220000, or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells: Cinderella. Starring Barney Harwood and Sarah Thomas. Ends on Sunday, January 6. Tickets £10-£19.50. Phone 01892 530613 or 532072, or visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone: Sleeping Beauty. With Beau Brady and Kate Sheridan. Ends Sunday, January 6. Tickets from £6.95. Phone 01622 758611, or visit www.hazlitttheatre.co.uk.

Central Theatre, Chatham: Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs. Starring Shane Lynch, Sheila Ferguson and Claire Huckle (left). Ends on Sunday, January 6. Tickets £12.50-£17.50. Phone 01634 338338, or visit www.medway.gov.uk/theatres.

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone: Jack and the Beanstalk. Starring Gabrielle Bradshaw and Claire Coultry. Ends on Sunday, January 6. Tickets £10, concessions available. Phone 0870 4000 890, or visit www.leascliffhall.co.uk.



ASHFORD LEISURE

Follow the white rabbit to magic of the theatre

CHILDREN'S favourite Alice In Wonderland will be staged at the Sinden Theatre in Tenterden next week.

Staplehurst Dramatic Society returns to the theatre to bring to life the magical tale of a little girl lost in a world of amazing characters. Performances will be held at 3pm and 7.30pm on Saturday, January 12.

Tickets cost £10/£7. To book, call the box office on 01580 763826 or visit www.sindentheatre.biz.

Skiffle is so much more than the littlest Hobo

EXPERIENCE 'off the rails skiffle' when Hobo Jones and The Junkyard Dogs perform in Ashford.

The trio - comprising Hobo Jones, Miser Bill and Wino Tyrone - will be playing live at The Star in East Hill on Sunday, January 6. The gig starts at 8pm.

For more details about the gig and information about the band, log onto www.hobojones.com.

Take a bite out of a new skill with beginners class

START the New Year with a new skill by joining computer classes in Biddenden.

The first classes, for beginners and intermediates, will be held at Woodland Lodge in Benenden Road between 9am and 4.30pm on Monday, January 7, then on Mondays every three weeks.

Entry is free for the first month. For more information, call 01304 617174.

Cheesy classics to get you on the dancefloor

FROM 9.30pm to 3am, DJ KGB will be playing R'n'B, dance and club classics in Liquid, while DJ Jay gets the party going with the best cheesy anthems in Envy.

Drinks cost just £2 before 10.30pm at the club in The Flourmills, East Hill.

For more information, call the club on 01233 613333 or see www.liquidclubs.com.

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



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ON GENERAL RELEASE

ST TRINIANS (12A)



Girls just wanna have fun in Oliver Parker and Barnaby Thompson's revival of the naughty hockey stick-wielding minxes. St Trinian's is frothy and undemanding fun, interspersed with snappily edited montages set to songs by Shampoo, Sophie Ellis Bextor and Girls Aloud. Stars Rupert Everett, Colin Firth and the brilliant Russell Brand as Flash Harry.

BEE MOVIE (PG)



Co-written by Jerry Seinfeld, who also voices the lead character, computer-animated adventure Bee Movie is a fitfully amusing romp that peddles many obviously puns and gags. "A perfect report card - all bs!" Seinfeld brings his dry humour to his role while Renée Zellweger, Matthew Broderick and co offer lively support.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (U)



Alvin And The Chipmunks treats its audience like fools, keeping dialogue to a minimum the plot is slow. Kids might giggle at the sight of one chipmunk noisily breaking wind in Dave's face, but laughs are few and far between.

Taking the leap into adulthood

■ BY BEN FALK

ELFIN-like Natalie Portman is renowned for her intelligence as one of the few young actresses in Hollywood who not only went to college – but to Harvard.

She also has a reputation for being mature beyond her 26 years, an attitude honed growing up on movie sets.

When you meet Portman you immediately see she is articulate and well-spoken, informed and possessed of great beauty.

But blink your eyes and look again and you'll see a kid, a girl in her mid-20s who looks 16, and who peppers her conversation about poverty in Africa and her charity work with dozens of "likes" and "whatevers".

It's refreshing that in the battle-hardened world of Tinseltown, where tweens have business managers, she hasn't forfeited her youth, which is why she loved making new film Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium.

"I thought it was such a wonderful thing to put out into the world," she says of the film. "It's so positive and in such a unique way."

Unique indeed. Natalie is the shop assistant at a magical toy shop run by the impossibly-old Dustin Hoffman, who finally decides to pass on the business, Willy Wonka-style, to her.

"I could really relate to the character too," she admits.

"It was something I could really understand – that transition into adulthood."

Ah yes, the old passage from child actor to bona fide movie star. It's something that Natalie continues to grapple with, ever since making her debut aged 12 as a precocious wannabe hitwoman in Leon.

Her role as Queen Amidala in the second Star Wars trilogy straddled the divide between

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youth and grown-up, but by semi-abandoning films and focusing on her studies, it seemed for a while that she wasn't interested in being a woman in Hollywood.

She has a degree in psychology, speaks fluent Hebrew and her work has appeared in several scientific journals. Nonetheless, she now says it would be tough to give up acting.

Portman doesn't discuss who's she dating or dated, but names like Jake Gyllenhaal, Hayden Christensen and Gael Garcia Bernal have all come up.

"From a young age, my parents taught me not to talk about private stuff because as soon as you start putting it out there, it's like fair game," she says.

But as for why she hasn't fallen into the trap of Britney and co, she adds: "I think the press branded me as one thing."

"They branded me as the good kid. But none of us are all good or all bad. The kids who



CHILD-LIKE: Natalie Portman enjoys being young

**MR MAGORIUM'S
WONDER EMPORIUM**
Certificate U

they're saying are party animals are not either.

"In some ways, it's a self-fulfilling prophecy – they follow you less, so they catch your mistakes less."

In other words, she's more than happy to continue without making it into the pages of Heat. Next up is period drama The Other Boleyn Girl, in which she plays doomed queen Anne Boleyn with Scarlett Johansson as her sister.

She's also currently shooting a remake of the Danish hit Brothers, alongside alleged former beau Gyllenhaal.

Prestigious, arty projects for sure, but to float Natalie's boat it's got to be something she is passionate about.

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yourashfordgetaways

Ski resort puts families first

■ BY HANNAH STEPHENSON

IT WAS a chilling thought taking my two children on their first skiing trip.

If just one of them didn't take kindly to the slopes I could face a week of tobogganing, ice-skating or languishing in over-priced mountain cafes trying to keep a little one entertained, while waiting for the others to come down the mountain.

However, as both my husband and I are keen skiers, we agreed to tread on thin ice for our first family ski-trip to Flaine, in the northern French Alps between Geneva and Chamonix.

It forms the centre of the spectacular Grand Massif, one of the largest linked ski areas in France, offering 265km of snowsports over 133 runs, with 78 ski lifts connecting Flaine with the neighbouring resorts of Samoens, Les Carroz d'Araches, Morillon and Sixt Fer à Cheval.

At 1,600m, Flaine's not quite as high as other French resorts, such as La Plagne or Courchevel 1850, but because it lies within a dramatic bowl, the snow remains longer than at other locations.

With 52 red runs, 52 blues, 15 greens and 14 blacks, there's enough skiing for all abilities, but the resort comes recommended as a child-friendly destination, with plenty of nursery slopes to keep the youngsters amused.

Flaine centre, it has to be said, is more concrete than picture postcard, having been purpose-built in the 1960s. But my seven and



LASTING: Being located in a bowl means the snow lasts for longer in the ski resort of Flaine

eight-year-old children didn't notice the architecture when they were having fun in the snow – and there was plenty of it.

We needn't have worried about them taking to the sport. Once we had hired the boots and skis the children couldn't wait to have a go, and as they could ski virtually from the door of

our hotel, we didn't need to walk far for the fun to begin.

There are several free lifts at the base of the resort, which accommodate two green runs ideal for beginners, so we didn't buy a ski pass for our children on the first day just in case they didn't like it.

But after an afternoon finding their snow legs, they were hooked and could soon tackle the chairlift with an adult.

Ski school is a must for young beginners – to learn the basics of snow-ploughing, distribution of weight on the skis and, most importantly, how to stop. They also make new friends in the lessons and it gives parents time to ski on their own.

However, during peak season ski school can be crowded, so we organised a couple of private lessons. A two-hour lesson for two children in Flaine with ESF cost 69 Euros (about £49) and was worth it – they progress quicker and have individual attention which can make it safer.

I met several families during my stay who had driven to Flaine, taking the Dover-Calais ferry and then sharing the eight-hour drive.

They chose to drive partly because it's cheaper than a package and partly because they were self-catering and could cram provisions for the week in the car.

The last thing I want to do at the end of a day on the slopes is cook, so we opted for a package holiday with Crystal at the Club Hotel Totem, where you can ski to the door.

For a three-star hotel, the food was fabulous. The menu changed daily and we were offered choices ranging from sea bass and hake, to venison, roast lamb and vegetarian stir fries.

FACT FILE:

Time difference	UK + one hour
Currency	Euros approx 1.4 to £1
Capital	Paris
Region airport	64.1 million
Language	French
Religion	Roman Catholic
Climate	Alpine in mountain regions

Holiday details

Hannah Stephenson travelled courtesy of Crystal Ski, which offers seven nights' half-board plus afternoon tea, coffee and cake and free wine or soft drinks with evening meals at Club Hotel Le Totem from £1,248 for a family of four (two adults, two children) this winter, including return flights ex-Gatwick and transfers.

Adult prices begin at £479, with special rates for children (2-11), and up to three free child places per family. Regional departures from 10 UK airports from £10. Supplement ex-Manchester is £26 and ex-Glasgow £39. Free ski and boot hire for one child for each adult pre-booking skis and boots. Six days ski/board hire costs £91 per child, £124 per adult. Lift passes £147 per adult, £107 per child, free passes for under-fives. Child care at Club Hotel Le Totem can be pre-booked. Crystal reservations: 0870 402 0293 or online at www.crystalfamilies.co.uk.



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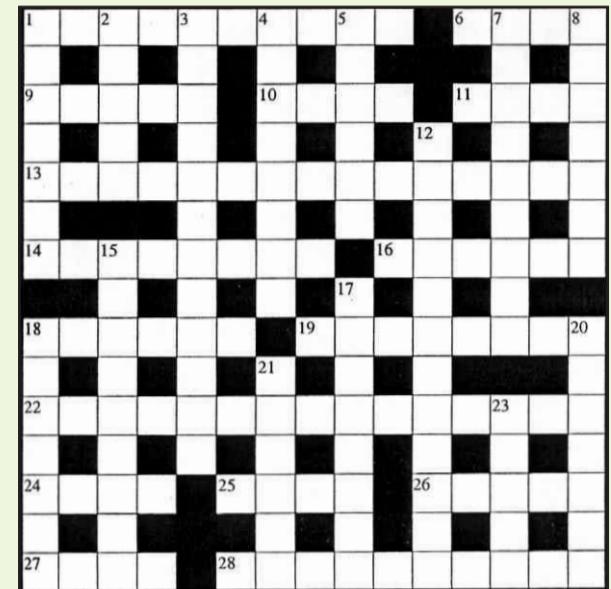
No17

Can you spot the five differences between these two pictures of Headcorn High Street?

Answers to all of this week's **timeout** questions can be found on our website.

CROSSWORD

No17

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CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Worrying troubled man has rest (10)
- 6 Blackleg seen initially at advice centre (4)
- 9 Perfect pattern (5)
- 10 Strip of peat removed (4)
- 11 Worn block? (4)
- 13 Unable to include odd-one-out that is not special (15)
- 14 Another Tory gain? It's a twist! (8)
- 16 Go and join up again (6)
- 18 Leave some of the trade parts (6)
- 19 Preparation for a form of surgery (8)
- 22 Scottish tourist attraction that possibly has never been seen (4,4,7)
- 24 Foundation for a vegetable (4)
- 25 Turn at home to enter (2,2)
- 26 After having breather, I obtained loin cloth (5)
- 27 So repeatedly mediocre (2-2)
- 28 Used another worker (6-4)

DOWN

- 1 Food unhesitatingly produced in Germany (7)
- 2 Didn't start game on hilltop (5)
- 3 Looking after number one on holiday? (4-8)
- 4 Previously encountered, say, figure of speech (8)
- 5 One tucking in may tuck it in (6)
- 7 Principal officiant Bert clean away (9)
- 8 Mike hidden on stand is cause of anger (7)
- 12 Cover vase that had gone first when all mixed together (12)
- 15 Criticise airman with debts who is grasping (9)
- 17 Order nothing from unit of special service brigade (8)
- 18 Lady aggravated old sore (7)
- 20 Prepared a hot meal? (7)
- 21 A prop on the beach (6)
- 23 Simpleton galloped round islands (5)

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Green ___ (liqueur) (10)
- 6 Season's yield (4)
- 9 Prohibited (5)
- 10 Whitish (4)
- 11 Eyot (4)
- 13 Make an indiscretion (3,4,4,2,2)
- 14 Squirmed (8)
- 16 Large gun (6)
- 18 Fall asleep (3,3)
- 19 Immaculate (8)
- 22 Capable of being switched (15)
- 24 Forest plant (4)
- 25 Locality (4)
- 26 Inn (5)
- 27 Tier (anag.) (4)
- 28 Lake poet (10)
- DOWN
- 1 Dupe (4-3)
- 2 Monastic head (5)
- 3 Road (12)
- 4 One selling overseas (8)
- 5 Pink fish (6)
- 7 Ringing sound (9)
- 8 Town in Lancashire (7)
- 12 Win the most applause (5,3,4)
- 15 Restless (9)
- 17 Southern European (8)
- 18 Newspaper worker (7)
- 20 Furtiveness (7)
- 21 Town in northern Scotland (6)
- 23 Tribe (anag.) (5)

SOLUTIONS

- 22 Thursday 23 Say-so
- 27 Spaniard 28 Pimper 20 Stealith
- 31 Seal the show 15 Impatient
- 32 Toolmaker 35 Chitchat 36 Alfresco 37
- 33 Librarian 6 Flatly 7 Out 9 Feed 14
- 34 Address 3 Miles 4 Probe 5
- 35 Pottoon 26 Reclaim 25 By
- 36 the same token 26 Pottoon 27
- 37 Tash 33 Polluted 37 Kneehole 38 Utter
- 38 Redistribution 30 Glueball 32 Utter
- 39 Cross 1 Charnes 6 Drop 9
- 40 Quick Solutions No17
- 41 Cross 1 Harm 4 Paleface 8
- 42 Kilk 19 Adderida 20 Acumen 21
- 43 Tooled 15 Chitchat 16 Alfresco 17
- 44 Librarian 6 Flatly 7 Out 9 Feed 14
- 45 Address 3 Miles 4 Probe 5
- 46 Pottoon 26 Reclaim 25 By
- 47 the same token 26 Pottoon 27
- 48 Gada 22 Reiset 24 Reclaim 25 By
- 49 in 14 Wriggled 16 Cannon 18 Pop
- 50 off 19 Spotted 22 Interchangeable
- 51 24 Tree 25 Area 26 Hotel 27 Rte 28
- 52 Wordsworth 1 Cats-Paw
- 53 Abbot 3 Thoroughfare 4 Exporter
- 54 Salmon 7 Resonance 8 Preston
- 55 12 Seal the show 15 Impatient
- 56 21 Steal the show 15 Impatient
- 57 27 Spaniard 18 Pimper 20 Stealith
- 58 32 Toolmaker 35 Chitchat 36 Alfresco 37
- 59 33 Librarian 6 Flatly 7 Out 9 Feed 14
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- 63 37 Tash 33 Polluted 37 Kneehole 38 Utter
- 64 38 Redistribution 30 Glueball 32 Utter
- 65 39 Cross 1 Charnes 6 Drop 9
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- 73 47 the same token 26 Pottoon 27
- 74 48 Gada 22 Reiset 24 Reclaim 25 By
- 75 49 in 14 Wriggled 16 Cannon 18 Pop
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- 81 55 12 Seal the show 15 Impatient
- 82 56 21 Steal the show 15 Impatient
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- 84 58 32 Toolmaker 35 Chitchat 36 Alfresco 37
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- 89 63 37 Tash 33 Polluted 37 Kneehole 38 Utter
- 90 64 38 Redistribution 30 Glueball 32 Utter
- 91 65 39 Cross 1 Charnes 6 Drop 9
- 92 66 40 Quick Solutions No17
- 93 67 41 Cross 1 Harm 4 Paleface 8
- 94 68 42 Kilk 19 Adderida 20 Acumen 21
- 95 69 43 Tooled 15 Chitchat 16 Alfresco 17
- 96 70 44 Librarian 6 Flatly 7 Out 9 Feed 14
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- 98 72 46 Pottoon 26 Reclaim 25 By
- 99 73 47 the same token 26 Pottoon 27
- 100 74 48 Gada 22 Reiset 24 Reclaim 25 By
- 101 75 49 in 14 Wriggled 16 Cannon 18 Pop
- 102 76 50 off 19 Spotted 22 Interchangeable
- 103 77 51 24 Tree 25 Area 26 Hotel 27 Rte 28
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YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE



AQUARIUS

(Jan 21 - Feb 19)

TRUST your instincts with regard to an unusual money-making venture. Your New Year resolution must be to make more use of your management skills and to push yourself forward in situations where you would prefer to take a back seat. Spending more time with friends will prove relaxing during the early part of 2008.



TAURUS

(Apr 21 - May 21)

YOUR expertise and experience makes you a desirable candidate for romance. A friend could set you up on a blind date. One thing is for sure: the chemistry between you will be fizzing. You'll be spending money as fast as it comes. While all of this financial activity makes you nervous, these expenditures are necessary to fuel future ventures.



LEO

(July 24 - Aug 23)

A BRILLIANT idea for conserving resources is worth following. Assuming a prominent position at work could also put extra money in your pocket, but it will involve added responsibility. Your love life will sizzle with excitement for the next month. If you've already got a partner, the two of you could be blessed with a child.



SCORPIO

(Oct 24 - Nov 22)

A FLIRTATIOUS conversation puts a spring in your step over the New Year celebrations. A group effort highlights your speaking or writing ability and you may be asked to act as the team's representative. More money for luxuries could come pouring in between now and late January. Take this opportunity to spoil yourself.



PISCES

(Feb 20 - Mar 20)

YOUR dynamism could attract the attention of an older intellectual. This could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship. The two of you make an odd but compelling pair. Your creative abilities are the secret to your career success in early 2008. Your New Year resolution should be to launch a home improvement project before early March.



GEMINI

(May 22 - Jun 22)

YOU could get an exciting bonus as thanks for a job well done. Cutting the household budget will give you greater financial security. It's better to have reserves in the bank than luxuries in your living space. Your love life undergoes a blissful honeymoon. Your New Year resolution must be to take more exercise.



VIRGO

(Aug 24 - Sep 23)

A BUSINESS or romantic partner's unusual outlook gives you an idea for a creative project. This year brings an opportunity to work on a more prominent level and you will love to be acknowledged for your expertise. Spending more time at home gives you a wonderful feeling of security. Prepare for your career to take flight.



SAGITTARIUS

(Nov 23 - Dec 21)

IDEAS for making your budget stretch farther will give you more freedom. Your star is on the rise so don't be surprised if you're given a raise or praise in recognition of your many and varied talents. If you're not happy in your current job, your New Year resolution should be to look around for a new position with more responsibility.



ARIES

(Mar 21 - Apr 20)

THIS year looks potential packed. You know just how to get the best out of your team. One of your New Year resolutions must be to improve your management skills. Your schedule will be very full between now and early March. Answering phone calls, text messages, and emails will demand much of your attention.



CANCER

(Jun 23 - Jul 23)

THE chance to study an unusual subject could come via a business or romantic partner. The more you know, the more desirable you get on the job market. Falling in love with someone who is much older or younger is a distinct possibility this week. Promise yourself you will make the most of the opportunities coming your way in 2008.



LIBRA

(Sep 24 - Oct 23)

A CHANCE to work from home could triple your productivity. Take the helm of a domestic matter this week. Trust your instincts, particularly with regard to assigning responsibilities to relatives and roommates. Your New Year resolution must be not to accept second best from those around you.



CAPRICORN

(Dec 22 - Jan 20)

TWO unrelated events could result in an exciting breakthrough. Teaming up with a respected expert could help you turn this brainstorm into a profitable business. Keep a love affair under wraps or meddling mischief makers will spoil the fun. Your New Year resolution should be to embark on an intense exercise regimen.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT THE STARS HAVE IN STORE FOR YOU CALL RUSSELL ON:

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EASY

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Last week's solutions

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yourashfordmusic

Sounds like some good music

An audience at the click of a mouse

IT MIGHT not have made Christmas number one like the band was hoping, but the Trouser Trumpet's effort is still definitely worth a look.

All I need for Christmas is You is the Trumpet's latest song, and has been downloaded numerous times from the band's website www.trousertrumpets.co.uk.

Performing regularly around Kent, including the Canterbury Festival in October, the Trumpets are a charismatic act who never fail to pull a crowd.

A multi-instrumental blend of The Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band, Spike Jones, Frank Zappa and Ian Dury, you can see them here on Yourkenttv, performing in Canterbury last year.

YOU can upload your own favourite video, your band, or any music that you would like to share by logging on at Yourkenttv.co.uk.

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOUR BAND ON THIS PAGE OR HAVE A GIG YOU WOULD LIKE TO LIST, SIMPLY LOG ON @ yourkenttv.co.uk AND FOLLOW THE EASY-TO-USE INSTRUCTIONS

LIVE AND LOUD



INVICTA'S XMAS FACTOR: A clip from Invicta FM's Xmas Factor 2007 final choir carol concert, held at the Dockside Outlet in Chatham on Monday, December 17, 2007.



C'MON ZYGO: Led Zygomatic, Kent's newest Led Zeppelin tribute band cover one of their idols' lesser known efforts. Eddie Cochrane's C'mon Everybody, covered by Led Zeppelin in their early days.



SOUL BROTHER: Rik Waller's Mighty Soul Band play a Winter Warmer at the Westgate Pavilion as a rehearsal for their tour. This is a selection of highlights from the show.



PROTEST: Hey Eddie is an anti-war protest song that has been downloaded around the world, drawing attention to the alleged lack of care for physically and mentally wounded soldiers.



STRANGE SOUNDS: Very experimental Canterbury band Stoftype perform their song Sgt Danko. The video was made on April, 2007, and is... quite strange.



TUNE IN: Not strictly a music video... there's not a lot happening if we're honest, but you can still listen to the tune, created by Kent electronic artist, Yerk AKA Nick Burkinyoung.

music supplied by

Yerk

www.yerk.co.uk
airecords.com

2min 12sec @ 391kps

Full screen

2min 12sec @ 391kps



PROPERTY NEWS

Protect yourself against burglars

WHILE you splash out on gifts for loved ones this year, security experts are warning householders to take extra care to prevent falling victim to burglars.

Although such crimes are few and far between, Home Office statistics show Kent is one of the UK's top 10 regions most likely to be affected by burglary – with research suggesting you're more likely to be burgled just after Christmas.

Jill Willis, market development manager at Norwich Union Insurance, said: "Christmas is a time to relax and catch up with friends and relatives, but the threat of burglary during this period can't be ignored.

"Our research shows that three quarters of British people are not taking any extra care to protect their homes and property. By taking a few simple steps, homeowners can help to avoid the trauma burglaries cause."

Key recommendations include keeping presents out of view from opportunist thieves, asking trusted neighbours to keep an eye on your property, using timer switches for lights, and not forgetting to double-check all windows and doors before you leave the house.

Get on the ladder by buying with a buddy

MAKING those first steps onto the property ladder can be a tricky business, especially with house price to income ratios now higher than ever.

One solution is to join forces with a friend and pool your resources to buy a property together and share the monthly outgoings.

The concept of 'buying with a buddy' is becoming increasingly common and websites have sprung up to help would-be home owners pair up with like-minded individuals.

Caron Hutchins, sales manager for Redrow Homes (Eastern), says: "A new home is great for first time buyers as it comes with a 10-year Buildmark warranty and requires little or no maintenance and none of the renovation or repair that goes with buying a rundown terrace. New homes also tend to be more energy efficient, which makes for fewer arguments over the heating bills."



BUILD ON IT: The coming year looks set to be the perfect time to sell your land, as developers aim to meet the targets for affordable, eco-friendly and family homes

Land yourself a good deal on your open space

THE new home market is set for an upturn next year – with eco-friendly homes playing a key role in driving the sector upwards, according to property experts.

And the role of housing associations in snapping up land to build much-needed affordable housing in the county is set to provide more choice for those looking to snap up a new-build property.

This year has seen prices for new homes continue to rise and the market remained buoyant through the summer before experiencing a slow down towards the end of the year.

On the supply side, due to a dwindling stock of good brownfield sites available for building, there has continued to be fierce competition

■ BY CHRIS THOMSON

between developers over sites, which in turn means land prices have stayed strong.

According to chiefs at RPC Land and New Homes, the situation should shift during 2008.

Managing director, Peter Randall, said: "This year the market has been quite tough for developers, but they are still very hungry for land and desperate to purchase good sites and that will continue into 2008 and beyond.

"This year has seen the new homes market start well and then slow down. I expect that to change around in 2008, with perhaps a slow start followed by an upturn later in the year.

I believe next year we will see more housing associations involved with developments in Kent to meet affordable housing numbers and

I think eco-friendly developments will also become more common.

"There is also a growing trend in some parts of the county for planners to look for more family housing, reversing the trend over the past few years for higher density developments such as flats. I would expect developers to follow suit and look to provide more two, three and four-bedroom properties.

"With competition still strong over sites for development, land prices look set to be maintained. This, coupled with the axing of tax exemptions on empty commercial premises, means 2008 could be a wise time to cash in on land for development. It's best to talk to an expert to get the best design for a plot."

RPC Land has offices at Dartford, Chatham, Maidstone, Ashford, Tonbridge and Hayes Heath.

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- Fitted kitchen and Lounge/Diner
- No Chain!



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- 3 bedroom end of terrace
- Off road parking
- No onward chain



ALDERNAY WAY £222,500

ASHFORD OFFICE BAP01083

- 3 bedroom townhouse
- Ensuite and cloakroom
- No onward chain worries



ORCHARD HEIGHTS £234,995

ASHFORD OFFICE BAP01055

- 3 bed detached property
- Sought after development
- Garage and no onward chain!



LAKEMEAD £119,995

ASHFORD OFFICE BAP01118

- One bedroom flat
- Allocated parking
- No onward chain



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- Super 3 bedroom terraced house
- 18 ft lounge
- Cul de sac location



WILLESBOROUGH £190,000

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GODINTON PARK £224,995

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- Fantastic presentation
- No onward chain



SWAFFER WAY £244,995

ASHFORD OFFICE BAP00942

- 4 bedroom townhouse
- Superbly presented throughout
- 2 ensuites, garage and parking



GUERNSEY WAY £139,995

ASHFORD OFFICE BAP01111

- Fantastic 2 bedroom flat
- Own entrance and parking
- No onward chain



JEMMET ROAD £174,995

ASHFORD OFFICE BAP01102

- Central 3 bed property
- Substantial 90ft rear garden
- Off road parking



KINGSNORTH ROAD £199,995

ASHFORD OFFICE BAP01079

- Super 3 Bedroom property
- Planning permission for an extension
- No Chain



ASHFORD £229,995

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- Four bedroom detached home
- Superb sized accommodation
- Garage & off road parking



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- Conservatory



CANTERBURY ROAD £279,995

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- 3/4 bedroom semi detached
- Garage and off road parking
- Secluded garden, No chain



WAREHORNE VILLAGE £550,000

ASHFORD OFFICE BAP01116

- Listed detached cottage
- 2/3 acres approx
- Stunning character home



KENNINGTON £264,995

ASHFORD OFFICE BAP01097

- Beautifully presented 3 bedroom home
- Located in a sought after part of town
- Off road parking & garage



CHARTFIELDS £270,000

ASHFORD OFFICE BAP00995

- Stunning 4 bedroom Wards home
- En suite/Garage & OSP 2 cars
- 2 Recepts & kitchen/breakfast room



WILLESBOROUGH £294,995

ASHFORD OFFICE BAP00743

- 5 bedroom detached property
- Property offers 3 reception rooms.
- Double garage & secluded garden



PARK FARM £269,995

ASHFORD OFFICE BAP01076

- 4 Bedroom Detached property
- Situated on a private drive
- Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast room



CHURCH ROAD £285,000

ASHFORD OFFICE BAP01084

- Delightful Grade II listed property
- 3 bedrooms
- 150ft Rear Garden, Ample Parking



ASHFORD £325,000

ASHFORD OFFICE BAP01024

- 3 bedroom detached home
- No onward chain
- Fantastic location



EAST STOUR WAY £270,000

ASHFORD OFFICE BAP01080

- 4/5 bed townhouse
- Field and country views
- Magnificent presentation



KENNINGTON £287,500

ASHFORD OFFICE BAP00996

- Extended 4 bedroom detached
- Great position overlooking green
- Superb size accommodation



KENNINGTON £350,000

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Viewing is recommended.
Guide Price- £479,500

**CANTERBURY**

An unusual opportunity to purchase a three bedroom end of terrace property with gardens, off street parking and a garage.

Guide Price- £245,000

**HAMSTREET**

A modern 2 bedroom end of terrace property situated in the sought after village of Hamstreet. The accommodation also includes garden and off road parking for up to two vehicles.

Guide Price- £172,500

**HAMSTREET**

Substantial five bedroom modern village home with accommodation over three floors. Excellent access to the surrounding countryside and Village. Double glazed and central heated with pleasing gardens and outlooks.

Guide Price- £385,000

**HAMSTREET**

A modern two bedroom flat in the sought after village of Hamstreet. The stylish accommodation also comprises living room, kitchen, bathroom. Property benefits from gas central heating, good size boarded loft space and off road parking.

Guide Price- £167,500

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**NEW ROMNEY**

A charming grade II listed family home providing well proportioned accommodation over 3 floors. The accommodation comprises sitting room, dining room, study, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, 3 bedrooms and bathroom to the 1st floor and two attic rooms to the 2nd floor.

Guide Price- £355,000

**BOSSINGHAM**

A charming detached cottage with many period features well situated in the centre of the delightful village of Bossingham. The attractive and recently updated accommodation includes 2/3 bedrooms, lounge, kitchen, dining area and bathroom.

Early viewing is recommended.

Guide Price- £350,000

**SELSTED**

A Grade II Listed detached house with equestrian facilities including grounds of 2.5 acres (unmeasured). This attractive property has been extended to provide accommodation including four bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, shower room and family bathroom.

Guide Price- £540,000

**HAMSTREET**

A spacious well designed and maintained dwelling with excellent outlooks in all directions and grounds extending to approximately 7 acres (unmeasured). A large yard has been formed and buildings erected for the operation of HGV and goods transfer.

Guide Price- £615,000

**SHEPHERSWELL**

A well maintained 2 storey family home with 3 bedrooms, spacious entrance hall plus porch, kitchen plus utility, cloakroom, family bathroom and spacious lounge diner. The twin garage and off road parking are ideal. Full gas fired central heating and full double glazed windows.

Guide Price- £230,000

**HAMSTREET**

A 3 bedroom terraced property in the village of Hamstreet in need of modernisation. A very pleasing mid terrace property with good size front and rear gardens. Good size with pleasing village outlooks. This property is offered freehold with vacant possession and with no chain.

Guide Price- £180,000

**BARHAM**

A spacious three bedroom traditional cottage, finish in flint, situated in an idyllic village setting. This property has been fully modernised and is pleasingly presented. Internal viewing is highly recommended!

Guide Price- £510,000



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HAMSTREET £585,000

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- 4 Receptions, Conservatories
- Garage, Village Location

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ASHFORD £365,000

- Detached 4 Bedroom Chalet, 100' Garden
- En-Suite To Bedroom 1
- Lovely Semi Rural Location

Ashford Office 0845 3709 716



ASHFORD PRICE RANGE: £339,995 - £379,995

- 5 Bed Detached Close To Town
- 2 Reception Rooms Plus Conservatory
- Approx. 80' Rear Garden

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TENTERDEN PRICE RANGE: £285,000 - £300,000

- 3/4 Bedrooms, 1/2 Receptions
- Self Contained Basement, Rear Garden
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SINGLETON OIRO £284,950

- 5 Bedrooms, 2 En-Suites, 2 Receptions
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- Cloakroom, Garage, No Onward Chain

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ASHFORD £274,995

- 3/4 Bedrooms, Over 2 Floors
- 2 Bathrooms, 2 Receptions
- Particular Feature Size & Aspect Of Garden

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ASHFORD £269,950

- 4 Bedroom Detached, 3 Reception Rooms
- En-Suite, Utility & Cloakroom
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TENTERDEN £265,000

- 2 Bedroom Detached, Galleried Dining Hall
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- Popular Location

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- Good Size Rear Garden, Village Location

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ASHFORD PRICE RANGE: £230,000 - £250,000

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- 4 Bedrooms
- Ample Parking

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ST MICHAELS £214,995

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STANHOPE PRICE RANGE: £134,995 - £144,995

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- Useful Family Room

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ASHFORD £132,995

- 2 Bedroom, Some Double Glazing
- Gas Heating, Enclosed Garden
- Close To Town Centre

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ASHFORD £105,000

- Top Floor Purpose Built Flat
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Reduced  £ 125,000 Cherven, Bulgaria Beds: 3, Baths: 1 Square meter: 110 m ² Lot size: 500 m ² Type: Freehold	Reduced  £ 9,000 Volovo, Bulgaria Beds: 3, Baths: 1 Square meter: 70 m ² Lot size: 800 m ² Type: Freehold	 £ 45,000 Borisovo, Bulgaria Beds: 5, Baths: 1 Square meter: 120 m ² Lot size: 2,080 m ² Type: Freehold	 £ 18,000 Cherven, Bulgaria Beds: 4, Baths: 1 Square meter: 80 m ² Lot size: 350 m ² Type: Freehold

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2 fitted double bedrooms, 1 ensuite with shower, wc and washbasin. Cloakroom with wc and washbasin and large fitted cupboard. Large airing cupboard housing Valliant Combi Gas Boiler in hallway. Spacious deluxe kitchen with built in oven and grill and separate hob. Space for fridge freezer. Utility room with space for washing machine and tumble dryer, cupboards over worktop. Large L shape lounge / dining room with wall lights and fire surround.

Easy to manage small open plan garden, laid to lawn with shrubs and flower beds.

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REF: 0132DSP - BENITACHELL, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 189,633 € (APPROX £135.640)

Brand new development of apartments offering two or three bedrooms. These apartments offer spectacular views and are due for completion in February 2008.



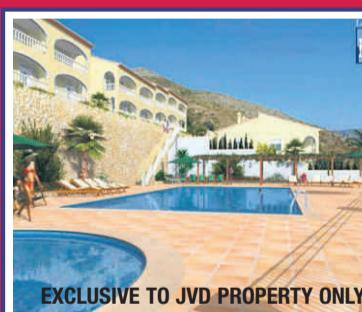
REF: 0137DSP - BENITACHELL, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 350,415 € (APPROX £250.640)

Two or three bedroom villas available for off plan development. Many styles and plots available. All plots offer excellent sea views and built within 18 months of purchase.



REF: 0138DSP - BENITACHELL, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 328,000 € (APPROX £234.610)

Two or three bedroom villas available for off plan development. Many styles and plots available. All plots offer excellent sea views and built within 18 months of purchase.



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REF: 0204DSP - JALON, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 235,000 € (APPROX £168.090)

Brand new townhouses offering three bedrooms, private parking, private terraces and communal pool. Development is due for completion End of February 2008.



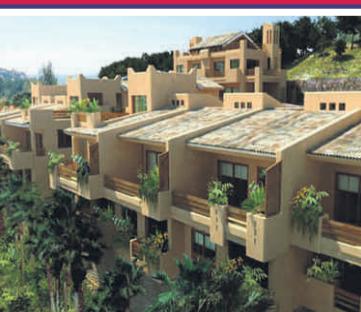
REF: 0205DSP, GATA DE GORGOS, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 451,000 € (APPROX £322.590)

Brand new development of villas offering three bedrooms, communal swimming pool, great location and picturesque views. All properties to be completed by Jan 09.



REF: 0206DSP, GATA DE GORGOS, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 361,000 € (APPROX £258.210)

Brand new development of villas offering three bedrooms, communal swimming pool, great location and picturesque views. All properties to be completed by Jan 09.



REF: 0155DSP, ALTEA, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 361,500 € (APPROX £258.570)

Brand new development of two and three bedroom townhouses offering fantastic views and a great location. This development is now key ready!



REF: 0159DSP, ALTEA HILLS, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 262,400 € (APPROX £187.687)

Luxurious residential estate offering two and three bedroom apartments with spectacular views of the Mediterranean coast line. This development is now key ready!



REF: 0158DSP, ALTEA HILLS, COSTA BLANCA, SPAIN PRICES FROM 262,400 € (APPROX £187.687)

Luxurious residential estate offering two and three bedroom apartments with spectacular views of the Mediterranean coast line. This development is now key ready!

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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

TOYOTA VERSO



TOYOTA quickly realised its previous five-seat Corolla Verso was just not cutting it in a growing market for mid-sized MPVs and axed it in favour of the current seven-seat version after just two years – an awesome demonstration of the Japanese giant's determination and production powers. Now known simply as the Verso, the result is one of the best MPVs in the class: stylish, highly flexible, generously equipped and featuring some good engines, plus built-in Toyota reliability and quality.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

MIDI MPVs

VAUXHALL pioneered a new people carrier segment with the original Zafira – the midi seven-seater. The Zafira was handier than a full-size people carrier like the Ford Galaxy or Renault Espace yet able to carry two more people – likely to be kids though – than a standard compact MPV such as the Renault Scenic. With all rear seats folding flat to the floor it could also better an estate car and challenge a van for load-lugging capacity. No wonder it soon spawned imitators such as the two excellent rivals also featured here.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA



YOU could almost hear the motor industry gasp when the Zafira was unveiled. OK, the styling was never exciting, but Vauxhall's motoring equivalent of a Swiss Army Knife came with brilliant flexibility as standard thanks to the Flex7 system that allowed the rear two rows of seats to be folded flat into the floor, to create various permutations or a massive load area. The original has been replaced by an even better model, but it is still a star buy.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VW TOURAN



BEWARE bargain priced Tourans – these are usually examples with just five seats rather than the more usual seven, an asset which helps Tourans to have one of the slowest depreciation rates in the MPV sector. The Touran is a good drive for a people carrier, refined and well-built to VW's high standards even if the styling inside and outside is a little bit bland. The car counters this minor gripe through some excellent engines including VW's renowned turbodiesels.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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2006 FORD FIESTA ZETEC 1.4 TDCI £6995



2005 VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 1.2 £4995



2004 VW TRANSPORTER T28 1.9 TDI £9995



2004 PEUGEOT EXPERT 815 1.9D £5650



2006 MITS L200 DID 4X4 2.5 TD £9995



2000 SUZUKI JIMNY JLX 1.2 P AUTO 4X4 £2995

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06 MERCEDES 109 COMPACT LONG 2.2 CDI 6 SEATER CREW CAB VAN 22,000 MILES WHITE £11495
04 FORD TRANSIT 350 2.4 TD 115 PS LWB 15 SEATER MINIBUS E/W 35,000 MILES WHITE FSH PSV £9995
05 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.9 TDI 115 PS 5 DOOR GREY FSH MAN WARRANTY AIRCON CD £9495 NO VAT
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04 MERCEDES VITO 109 2.2 CDI EXTRA LONG TWIN DOORS 29,000 MILES BLUE £9400
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05 FORD TRANSIT 280 SWB L/ROOF 2.0 TD 85 PS DARK BLUE 19,000 MILES FSH LINED £8495
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02 FORD TRANSIT 280 2.0 TD 100 PS SWB L/ROOF BLUE 26,000 MILES £5995
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04 VW LT35 LWB 4 METRE 2.5 TD 109 WHITE FSH £8500
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04 FORD TRANSIT 280 2.4 TD 90 PS LWB MED ROOF WHITE 37,000 MILES ELEC WIN £7995
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04 FORD TRANSIT 350 2.4 TD 125 PS CREW CAB ALLOY TRUCK 36,000 MILES £8495
03 FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB 2.4 TD 90 PS CREW CAB ALLOY TRUCK 50,000 MILES £7995
02 FORD TRANSIT 350 2.4 TD 90 PS CREW CAB TIPPER £6995
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04 FORD CONNECT T200 1.8 TDCI 90 PS 20,000 MILES WHITE £5495
04 FORD CONNECT T200 1.8 TDI 26,000 MILES WHITE 2 SIDE DOORS £5995
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156, 1.8 T SPARK, 2000, red, 67759 miles, £2795, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

156, T.spark 16v Veloce, Ix02pzo, air conditioning, immobiliser, remote central locking, full leather, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, cd player, stereo, uk supplied, blue, 40000 miles, £4999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

AUDI

A4, 2.4 sport cabriolet auto, 2003, gold met with black leather, 88000 miles, £13950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

A4, 3.2 fsi quattro tip auto, 2006, blue metallic with beige pearl nappa leather, 14600 miles, £24950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

A4, 2.0 Quattro Sport 6 speed manual, 2003, grey with grey leather, 85000 miles, £9955, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

CONTINENTAL GT, 2005, arena red metallic with saddle leather interior, 28000 miles, £64950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 323i, 254461, central locking, full leather, head restraints, power hood, abs, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric front windows, cd player, uk supplied, 17" alloys, montreal blue met, 70000 miles, £5999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 325Ci SPORT, au52cgx, orient blue, 0 miles, £11000, Big Motoring World, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 325i SPORT, 20038188, titanium silver, 65459 miles, £12000, Big Motoring World, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 328Ci 2793cc 2 door, 2000, abs brakes, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, leather upholstery, alarm driver's airbag, multiple airbags, power steering, mileage verified, immobiliser, electric windows, met blue, 95000 miles, £6995, Northdown Road Motor Company, Margate, 01843 290890 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 1.6i Saloon 4d 1596cc, i316hmo, mot---11/04/08 good runner, green, miles, £695.00, DCD Autos, ASHFORD, 01233 642211 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 325ci coupe manual, 2002, topaz blue met with anthracite cloth and leather, 49000 miles, £9950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 318ise, 2001, silver met with grey cloth, 96000 miles, £5950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

KALOS, 1.4 SX 5dr, 11/03/2005, cd player, driver airbag, power steering, immobiliser, electric windows, red, 17094 miles, £4999, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4 SX, 24637, finished in poly silver with grey interior manual, grey, 0 miles, £5995, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

LACETTI, Sport 1.8, 2004, silver, 23612 miles, £5995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE 1.0 A, 388639, finished in poly silver with black interior manual, black, 1000 miles, £5695, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

NEON, Le Auto, ex51 reu, central locking, cd player, radio, air conditioning, electric front windows, adjustable steering column, twin air bags, cloth upholstery, power steering, abs, black, 32000 miles, £2995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CITROEN

CITROEN BERLINGO 600, 09 1999, 1.9d white mot jul 08, 0 miles, £1995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

CITROEN BERLINGO 600 LX, 05 2004, 2.0 hdi white elec window 43.000 miles, £3995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

C2, 1.1i SX 3dr, 2005, 1.1i sx 3dr hatch, poseidon blue, 33362 miles, £595, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C2, 1.1i SX 3dr, 2007, 1.1i sx 3dr hatch, wicked red, 3000 miles, £6995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C2, 1.1i L 3dr, 2006, 1.1i L 3dr hatch, sport red, 8462 miles, £5595, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i Desire 5dr, 2004, special edition, blue, 21924 miles, £6495, Wilmots Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C3, 1.1i Desire 5dr, 2005, special edition, white, 10 miles, £6495, Wilmots Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C3, 1.6i Exclusive 5dr, 2002, mauve, 41000 miles, £5995, Wilmots Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i Desire 5dr, 2007, special edition, silver, 1000 miles, £8295, Wilmots Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i Cool 5dr, special edition, arctic steel, 1000 miles, £8395, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

DAEWOO

DAEWOO NUBIRA 4 door saloon, 06 2000, 1.6 p se mot July 08, 0 miles, £500, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

TERIOS, 2005 5 Door 1.3 Sport Automatic Petrol, 447649, metallic paintwork, daihatsu terios 2005 5 door 1.3 sport automatic petrol honda

honda ashford drake & fletcher silver metallic, 2005, 17656 miles, manual, petrol, 5 doors, 2 previous owners, grey, £995, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.6 iVtec Inspire S, 406649, honda civic 1.6 iVtec inspire S 5dr honda civic 1.6 iVtec inspire S 5dr

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- ESTATE AGENCY, PROPERTY

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Senior & General Appointments 37-43

Pitts Wilson Electrical

Experienced Fire Alarm Service Engineer

Required to service and maintain systems within retail outlets in the South East area.

To apply please call 01274 771100 or email gary.hill@pwe-elec.com

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For more details about this exciting opportunity please contact Ramsgate Job Centre on (01843) 258 732 on Thursday 10th January to be given a session time for the OPEN DAY to be held at Ramsgate Job Centre on Saturday 12th January 2008.

To advertise in this section  **01303 817040**

MEDWAY TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES



PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Teacher
Warren Wood Community Primary School and Language Unit
Specialist teacher (mixed year 3/4/5 class)
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and fixed term contract
Required From: 21 April 2008
Closing date: 7 January 2008
To apply/more information
Kerry Trim, Assistant Headteacher
Warren Wood community Primary School and language unit
Arethusa Road
Rochester
Kent ME1 2UR
Telephone - (01634) 337227
Email trimk001@medway.org.uk

Hoo St Werburgh Primary School & Marlborough Centre
KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full or part time and temporary
Term of contract: To cover maternity leave
Required From: January 2008
Closing date: 3 January 2008
To apply/more information
Jo Trickett, Headteacher
Hoo St Werburgh Primary school & Marlborough Centre
Pottery Road
Hoo
Rochester

www.medway.gov.uk/teachingcareers

Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Rivermead
Teacher of general subjects
Salary: MPS + SEN allowance (£1818)
Full Time and permanent
Required From: to be confirmed
Closing date: 15 January 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Karen Watkin, Office Manager
Rivermead School
Forge Lane
Gillingham
Kent ME7 1UG
Telephone - (01634) 338348
Email office@rivermead.medway.sch.uk

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NEW YEAR NEW CAREER?

WANTED - CAR SALES EXECUTIVES

We have vacancies for New and Used Car Sales Executives at our Canterbury and Dover dealerships. You must be well organised, customer focused, self-motivated with the desire to be part of one of Kents largest Vauxhall retailers. In return we offer a highly competitive package including company car, comprehensive in-house training programme and above all the opportunity to work for one of the top dealerships in the South East.

What we are looking for... We want people who want to succeed, people who are open minded, who enjoy learning new skills and will be committed to our customers. Applicants will ideally have experience in retail sales with a full driving licence.

NEW CAR SALES CONTROLLER - Canterbury

Answering to the New Car Sales Manager this demanding role is to lead the sales team into achieving all key performance areas and effectively sell finance and insurance to our customers. You must be self-motivated, energetic and will need a proven track sales record and be highly numerate, this position would suit a senior sales person wishing to progress their career to the next level. Full training will be provided as part of our in-house training programme.

PART-TIME TELEPHONE RECEPTIONISTS - Broadstairs & Canterbury

We require experienced and efficient people to run our busy reception area at our Broadstairs and Canterbury dealerships. You will be required to deal with all general reception enquiries, operate a busy switchboard and meet and greet new and existing clients. There will also be some typing and filing work.

We have 2 part-time vacancies available at Broadstairs - 8.30am to 6.00pm Saturdays (one hour for lunch) and 1.00pm to 6.00pm Monday to Fridays. Saturdays 8.30am to 6pm at Canterbury.

FULLY QUALIFIED MOTOR VEHICLE TECHNICIAN - Broadstairs

We also have a vacancy for a fully qualified motor vehicle technician at our Broadstairs dealership. If you're able to demonstrate previous high levels of performance and you're looking for your skills to be appreciated, contact us now! We can provide the training and the career prospects that you're looking for!

What we are looking for... We want people who want to succeed, people who are open minded, who enjoy learning new skills and will be committed to our customers.

It's your career don't waste it!! Call Lucy now for an application form on 01227 710333 or email your CV to lsaunder@perrys.co.uk

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Demelza Hospice Care for Children provides care to life limited children and support to their families. We rely almost entirely on fundraising to run our services and the Trading Company provides a valuable income stream.

We have the following opportunities for the right candidates in our Charity Shops working with our teams of dedicated volunteers:-

Shop Manager, Ashford

37.5 hours per week Monday to Saturday with a day off in the week.

Shop Manager, Strood

22.5 hours per week to be worked over three days, including alternate Saturdays.

Retail Assistant, Hythe

13 hours per week, to be worked over two days to include alternate Fridays and Saturdays.

For all posts you will need:-

- Retail experience, preferably in the charity sector
- Excellent people and Customer Service skills
- To be numerate and able to keep good records
- Ability to undertake moving and handling within our guidelines, our shops premises have several floors
- Excellent organisation skills
- To be able to train and work alongside our excellent volunteers as part of a team.

For an application pack call our recruitment line on 01795 845295 stating the post you are interested in.

For an informal chat call Claire Jordan, Trading Manager on 01795 845202.

Closing Date: 23rd January, 2007

www.demelza.org.uk

A disclosure check will be required for the successful applicant.



Registered Charity No. 1039651. Demelza House is an equal opportunities employer and operates a no smoking policy.



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Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, phase 2 of which completes at the end of 2007. We are now developing the plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Estate & Building Services Manager

37 hrs per week, salary: £44,149 - £49,875 per annum Post ref: EBSM1/KoS

Interview Date: Tuesday 22 January 2008.

We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to ensure that College sites are fully utilised, maintained and enhanced, to provide an optimum learning and working environment for all users. You will have the opportunity to produce, update and develop the College's property and accommodation strategies, and will prepare maintenance and small buildings works programmes and schedules. You will lead on health and safety strategy and policy, and ensure the provision and maintenance of effective fire precautions, security systems and safety arrangements. Assisting the Director of Finance and Corporate Services in the preparation of relevant capital and revenue budgets, you will also manage the department's budgets and service contracts, and line manage the Estates team. You will develop and manage the College's energy management policy, advise on the use of professional services in connection with estates services, and will take responsibility for buildings & grounds maintenance and security for the insurance of the premises and assets.

To be successful, you will have a relevant professional qualification such as RICS, RIBA, MBIFM, or MIMechE, as well as professional qualifications in the area of Estates Management. In addition, you will be able to demonstrate considerable and successful estates management experience. You will have demonstrable experience of managing change with a commitment to continuous improvement, as well as having direct experience of line managing staff, budgets and resource management.

Computer literate, with analytical & evaluation skills, you will have the ability to assess the future financial viability of projects and development opportunities, have a high level of interpersonal skills and the ability to influence and work with colleagues across the College.

You will also have a commitment to educational and training values, and to Equal Opportunities.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is 15 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include

■ Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme	■ Sports Hall and Gym	■ Proximity to main bus/train stations
■ Generous Holiday Allowance	■ Close to City Centre	■ Staff discount scheme



Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

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CAPITAL PROJECT MANAGER

37 hrs per week, salary: c£70,000 per annum Post ref: CPM1/KoS

We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to take responsibility for the strategic and general management of the redevelopment project, ensuring that it is delivered on time, within budget, and in accordance with the design brief and targets.

Leading the project on behalf of the College, you will direct, co-ordinate and supervise the project in association with the College's Senior Management Team, Project Team and consultants.

Responsible for ensuring that the overall project programme can be approved by the Corporation and all activities are completed within defined parameters, you will also prepare the Estates Working Party papers in liaison with the Principal and the Clerk to the Corporation.

You will recommend and secure approval for any modifications of variation to the agreed brief, and will advise the Corporation on overall risk and exposure through the Capital programme.

You will be responsible for all aspects of financial management in liaison with the College's Director of Finance and Corporate Services, including monitoring of cashflow against College plans, all forms of asset management, including tenders, procurement and leasing options, and achieving best value in line with LSC guidelines.

To be successful, you will have a closely relevant professional qualification, such as a Postgraduate qualification in project management, or equivalent experience of public sector construction. In addition, you will be able to demonstrate detailed understanding of the financial and contractual management of construction projects, and the ability to think strategically to lead and advocate on complex projects. You will also have negotiation skills, and the ability to work to deadlines and to lead and motivate a team.

Computer literate, with analytical & evaluation skills, you will have the ability to assess the future financial viability of projects and development opportunities, a high level of communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to influence and work with colleagues across the College.

You will also have a commitment to educational and training values, and to Equal Opportunities.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

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Sheppey College

Lecturer Construction – Wood Occupations (Sheppey College)

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 per annum.

Post Ref: 05/60/KOS

Lecturer Hairdressing (Sheppey College)

14.8 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 08/07/KOS

Supply Lecturers (Sheppey College) are required in the following areas:

Administration

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/Admin/KOS

Cache

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/Cache/KOS

Construction

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/Con/KOS

Basic Skills (at Canterbury and Sheppey College)

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: S/BS/KOS

Text & Word Processing

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/TWP/KOS

Supported Learning

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/SL/KOS

Caretaker (Sheppey College)

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,464 per annum.

Post Ref: 04/03/KOS

Supply Learning Support – (Sheppey College)

Various hours available, salary starting from £16,284 pro rata per annum. Please specify your area/s of expertise in your application form.

Beauty

Post Ref: SH/LS/KOS

Childcare

Post Ref: SH/LS/KOS

Supported Learning

Post Ref: SH/LS/KOS

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is Friday 18 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Sports Hall and Gym at Canterbury Campus
- Staff Discount Scheme
- Proximity to Main bus/train Stations
- Close to City Centre

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Faculty Head Engineering & Construction

37 hrs per week, salary no less than £40,622 per annum Post Ref: FHEC1/KoS

We are seeking an individual of the highest calibre to help achieve our goal of being one of the best FE College by 2010.

You will be responsible for the operational delivery of the strategic plan within the Engineering & Construction Faculty, and will ensure a quality provision and suitable curriculum development to aid the learner experience. You will also play a key role in contributing to the development of the College's strategic & development plans, and will lead and inspire a team of Section Managers.

As a College we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of both young people and vulnerable adults, and the promotion of this will form an integral part of your role.

You will have significant experience in education leadership and people management, and will have the leadership skills to set the highest possible standards, both within your Faculty and throughout the College.

In return, we will offer you the rewards and support you would expect at such a senior level.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is 15 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include

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- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to main bus/train stations
- Close to City Centre
- Staff discount scheme



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- Proximity to main bus/train stations
- Close to City Centre
- Staff discount scheme



Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

Canterbury Christ Church University is the largest centre of higher education in Kent for the public services - notably teacher training, policing, health and social care - and is a significant provider of programmes in a wide range of academic and professional areas.

CANTERBURY CAMPUS

Computing Services

Computer Liaison Officer (Two Posts)

£27,466 to £29,139 per annum

Following a restructure of our Computing Services Department, we're seeking two additional experienced professionals to join the Computing Liaison Team. As part of this small team, you'll proactively develop the department's relationship with the faculties - you'll also identify the potential benefits of IT, help to establish business cases, and meet the needs of key stakeholders in this field.

Educated to degree level, you'll combine project management experience with the proven ability to enable the interaction of IT and business operation. It's also important that you are an excellent communicator who is comfortable liaising at all levels of our organisation. A specific background in IT support would be an advantage, as would experience of developing service level agreements. Ref: CLO/CS/77.

Interview date: 21 & 22 February 2008.

Web Systems Administrator/ Programmer

**£27,466 to £29,139 per annum (A higher salary
may be available for an exceptional candidate)**

As part of our Infrastructure Group, you'll provide expert technical support and development across our IT infrastructure. You will take responsibility for a number of key web services - and make a real contribution to our strategic projects, including an integrated identity management system.

Along with experience of web application development technologies and IIS/Windows Server administration, you'll need good interpersonal skills, a flexible approach, and familiarity with internet protocols. Ideally, you will have a working knowledge of C#, .Net, SQL, and XHTML - as well as a strong understanding of web technologies such as ADO, AJAX, ASP, XML and CSS. Ref: WSA2/CS/77.

For an informal discussion on either of these vacancies, please contact Louise Sibley on 01227 782522.

Student Support & Guidance

Student Adviser (Dyslexia & Neuro-Diversity)

£22,332 to £24,403 per annum

You will be responsible for prospective and registered students with dyslexia and neuro-diverse conditions (such as dyspraxia and Asperger syndrome), ensuring that the University provides appropriate support for their needs. We are seeking a team member to provide advice, guidance and information to students and to advise other University staff on appropriate, reasonable adjustments to enable access to the curriculum and all aspects of student life.

You will be educated to at least A level standard or equivalent and be able to demonstrate that you have broad experience of working in a supportive capacity with people with neuro-diverse conditions (in either an educational or voluntary sector setting). Further study or professional development in the field of dyslexia and/or neuro-diversity would be advantageous. Ref: SA/SSG/77.

Library Services

Faculty Liaison Librarian (Health & Social Care)

£25,134 to £26,666 per annum

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic librarian to join the Academic Services team at a busy University Library. You will be responsible for sharing academic liaison for the Health & Social Care Faculty, and will contribute to the provision of a library service which is responsive to the needs of all students and staff.

A qualified librarian, you should have previous professional library experience, ideally within the university sector. Excellent presentation and communication skills, along with a good working knowledge of information resources, are essential. You must have a commitment to continued professional development and be able to work independently, as well as part of a team. Ref: FLL2/LS/77.

Sport Science, Tourism and Leisure

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Sport and Exercise Science (Biomechanics)

£26,666 to £40,335 per annum

Applications are invited for a full-time post of Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Sport and Exercise Science to teach Biomechanics on a range of undergraduate programmes as well as contributing to the Department's expanding research programme. Applicants who can also contribute to other areas of sport and exercise science including research methods will be particularly welcome.

Applicants should possess a relevant first and/or higher degree and ideally should also possess a research degree and BASES accreditation. Ref: BIO/SSTL/77.

Informal enquiries to the Head of Department, Dr Chris Bull on 01227 782334.

The starting date is 1 April 2008 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Campus Services

Security Porter

£13,739 to £15,300 per annum

You will be responsible for maintaining the general security of the University premises including residential and office accommodation, maintaining CCTV surveillance, setting intruder and fire alarms and reacting to breaches of security. There will be some receptionist and switchboard duties particularly at nights and weekends.

You will have previous security related experience preferably within an educational establishment or similar, be of smart appearance with demonstrable interpersonal skills. You will have excellent communication skills and be able to use the telephone and e-mail systems. A relevant SIA licence will be an advantage.

Shift allocations and duties are variable and flexibility is required. There will be both day and night shift working at any one of our sites although this post will be predominantly a night shift post and you must recognise this as part of the role. Ref: SP4/CAM/77.

Accommodation Office

Security Caretaker (20 hours)

£13,739 to £15,300 per annum pro rata

The University has a wide range of student accommodation housing some 1,500 students in either self-catering flats or in catered halls spread over different sites, both on and off campus. During vacations they are also available for conferences and commercial letting.

You will be an integral part of a small team which helps to secure and maintain the student living environment at the University Halls of Residence sites.

With a background in caretaking/security in the public sector you will be able to deliver an excellent level of customer service, possess good communication and interpersonal skills and have a 'can do' approach to minor repairs, maintenance and general duties.

The hours of work will be Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday.

Ref: SC2/ACC/77.

Night Warden (Two Posts)

£13,739 to £15,300 per annum

The University has a wide range of student accommodation housing some 1,500 students in either self-catering flats or in catered halls. The accommodation is spread over different sites, both on and off campus in Canterbury and during vacations they are available for conferences and commercial letting.

Reporting to the Accommodation Services Manager you will help to secure and maintain the student living environment on the University Halls of Residence sites working a varied shift roster any 5 days out of 7, mainly night shifts. The successful applicant, will nevertheless, need to be flexible and with due notice (usually a month's notice of change) accept shift changes readily.

With a background in caretaking/security in the public sector you will be able to deliver as part of a central security team an excellent level of customer service to students, staff and visitors to the University. You will also have good communication and interpersonal skills. Ref: NW1/ACC/77.

Campus Catering Services

Executive Head Chef

£25,134 to £26,666 per annum

Working with the Front of House and Catering Systems Manager this is a key managerial post to move the catering service forward.

With at least NVQ Level 2/3 in Food Preparation and Cooking you will have worked in an institutional catering environment at Head Chef level. You will also be in possession of a current Intermediate Food Hygiene Certificate and have been actively involved (preferably led) the introduction of HACCP into a food production kitchen.

You should be conscientious with flair and creativity and be keen to lead an excellent culinary team towards continuing success. Proven leadership skills, financial acumen, communication skills and flair, imagination and enthusiasm for food are essential as is the ability to work in a very busy environment. Ideally you will have experience of working in Higher Education. Ref: EHC1/CAT/77.

Department of Childhood Studies (Location to be confirmed)

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer - Physical Education

£27,466 to £40,335 per annum

You will be a dynamic member of staff working with the existing Physical Education team at an exciting time, when new initiatives are being designed and implemented. You will teach across a range of programmes, including the BA/BSc Physical Education and Sport & Exercise Science, and also will make significant contributions to the ongoing development of Physical Education at the University

You will have a Masters degree (or a commitment to undertake one) and be familiar with current national and international developments and issues in the field of Physical Education. Experience of, or research interest in Inclusion and/or social and cultural aspects of Physical Education are desirable. Ref: LSL9/CHS/77.

Informal enquiries to the Programme Director Paul Carney on 01227 782877 or paul.carney@canterbury.ac.uk

Department of Educational Research & NICER

Research Fellow in Early Years (Fixed Term for 2 years)

£25,134 to £26,666 per annum

Attached to an early years project on character and values education, you will carry out fieldwork, be responsible for analysis and literature reviews and contribute to the writing of reports and materials for a new project beginning in the Autumn Term 2007.

You will be enthusiastic and committed, contributing towards a dynamic and ambitious group of researchers and practitioners. Your subject background will be less important than strong generic research skills, the ability to deliver work of the highest quality and to work as part of a team. Ref: RF1/TEM/77.

For an information discussion, please contact Professor James Arthur on 01227 782277.

Office of The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic)

Academic Registrar

Attractive salary: up to £60,000 per annum

We are seeking to appoint an outstanding individual to the post of Academic Registrar. This is a senior position offering an exciting opportunity to contribute to the strategic direction and management of several important dimensions of student administration within the university.

Reporting to the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic), your responsibilities will involve leadership of a range of central Registry functions including: management of the central record system (QLS); management of the timetabling and rooming function and system (Syllabus+); student registration; invoicing of tuition fees in liaison with the Student Loans Company (SLC); administration of examinations and processing of student results; management and organisation of graduation and award ceremonies; statistical reporting for internal and external purposes such as required by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

You will be qualified to degree level or equivalent, preferably to higher degree or doctorate level. You will have extensive, senior and relevant experience, including managing a mainframe database, managing staff and budgets, preferably within a Higher Education environment. Excellent communication, interpersonal and organisational skills are essential. Ref: ACA/APA/77.

MEDWAY CAMPUS

Allied Health Professions

Senior Lecturer in Speech & Language Therapy (0.5fte)

£32,796 to £40,335 per annum pro rata

We are looking for an HPC-registered Speech and Language Therapist to join the enthusiastic SLT team supporting the Post Graduate Diploma in Speech and Language Therapy delivered jointly with University of Greenwich.

You will have expertise in working with adults with communication disorders, and although not essential, you may also have an interest in voice, applied linguistics, adult learning disabilities, or hearing impairment. You will develop this as a key role with existing colleagues from Canterbury Christ Church University and University of Greenwich. You will hold a relevant degree and be interested in extending your professional profile. Ref: SLT1/AHP/77.

For informal discussion, please contact Professor Kate Springett, Head of Department, on 01227 782935 or kate.springett@canterbury.ac.uk or Marian McCormick on 01634 894432 or marian.mccormick@canterbury.ac.uk

Closing date: 1 February 2008.

SALOMONS' CAMPUS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Computing Services

Campus Support Lead

£27,466 to £29,139 per annum

As part of our User Technology team, you'll provide essential support to a wide range of users - resolving any problems they are experiencing with hardware, software, networking and AV. While based at the Salomons campus, you will on occasion need to travel to other campuses across Kent.

Having previously worked in a Computing Support environment, you must be an experienced IT professional with plenty of initiative. Self-motivation and flexibility are essential in this role, along with good communication skills at all levels. Ref: CSL/CS/77.

For an informal discussion please contact Louise Sibley on 01227 782522.

Application forms and further details are available from www.canterbury.ac.uk. Alternatively please call 01227 782475 (answerphone) or e-mail hr@canterbury.ac.uk quoting the appropriate reference. No agencies.

Closing date unless stated: 25 January 2008.



Sauflon Pharmaceuticals Limited is an independent manufacturing company producing contact lenses and solutions for markets around the world. We currently have the following vacancies for;

**QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORY MANAGER –
CHEMISTRY (Ref: QCC-3)**

The position of Quality Control Laboratory Manager is within our busy QC Chemistry laboratory, reporting to the Quality Assurance Manager.

You will ideally hold a degree (or equivalent) in Analytical Science (or similar), have a varied experience of analytical techniques including chromatographic, spectroscopic, titrimetric and wet chemical analysis, and experience in method validation.

Good organisational skills, computer literacy, high self-motivation and well-developed communication skills are essential ideally with a minimum of 2 years working in a regulated analytical laboratory.

Hours of work: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

**MAINTENANCE ELECTRICIAN
(Ref: ENG-4)**

We are currently seeking an enthusiastic and pro-active Maintenance Electrician.

As part of the maintenance team you will help maintain and repair plant equipment throughout the Ashford sites. Working to a high standard and compliant with legislation you will need to be able to work as part of a team, or alone.

You will have served a recognised electrical apprenticeship and possess the 16th edition certification. Experience as a qualified maintenance electrician is required and mechanical experience will be an advantage. A full driving license is essential.

Hours of work: 2:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

We offer a competitive salary, holiday entitlement and productivity bonus scheme.

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Post: Mrs. S. Keeka (HR Department)
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Email: simonilk@sauflon.co.uk

Central Control Operator - 16 hrs per week

£17,043 - £24,444 pro rata

Planning & Communities

Our Housing Services team are seeking to recruit a further member of staff to join its busy 24 hour Control Centre, monitoring Lifeline Clients, CCTV surveillance system and Telecare.

The shift system is varied and covers the full 24 hour clock, 365 days per year. Therefore unsocial working hours forms an integral part of this demanding post and post-holders will be expected to be flexible in their approach.

Post-holders are expected to be proactive in their approach to problem solving and a "Can Do" attitude is essential. A calm disposition and an ability to multi-task is also a vital requirement.

Additionally in order to fulfil this demanding role you will need:

- Excellent communication and observation skills.
- First Class hearing and a clear speaking voice.
- You will have the ability to prioritise your work-load in a high pressure environment.
- Good administration skills, including data entry and computer literate.

Applicants will be holders of, or make a commitment to study for the 'Edexcel National Certificate for Central Control Operators' and will be subject to receipt of satisfactory enhanced disclosure check from the Criminal Records Bureau and Airwaves check.

Initially the post-holder will be based at Philippa House Control Centre however in the early part of the new year the team will transfer to a purpose built Control Room Suite at the Civic Centre.

For further information about these posts, please contact Angela Vince or Shelley Squance on 01303 242971.

Application details can be downloaded at www.shepway.gov.uk, or email jobs@shepway.gov.uk alternatively call our 24 hour answerphone service on 01303 853481.

The closing date for completed application forms is Friday 18 January 2008

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f) Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
13. Any discount which the Publisher may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
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17. Order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
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Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opens in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Supply NVQ Assessor Health & Social Care

Various hours available. Salary range £17,640 – £25,294 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: S./NVQ/KOS



Senior Nursery Officer – Education and Curriculum

37 hrs per week. Salary starting from £16,284 per annum.
Post Ref: 08/04/KOS



Curriculum Support Assistant Music

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £18,285 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: 08/03/KOS



Curriculum Support Assistant – Beauty

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £18,285 pro rata per annum.
Post ref: 04/118/KOS



Learning Support – Independent Living & Leisure Skills

37 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £16,284 pro rata per annum. One Year fixed term post
Post Ref: 07/71/KOS



Resource Assistant/Placement Organiser

18.5 hrs per week. Salary starting from £14,464 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: RA17/KOS



Central Administrator

37 hrs per week. Salary starting from £14,464 per annum.
Post Ref: 06/157/KOS

Central Administrator

27 hrs per week. Salary starting from £14,464 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: 07/48/KOS



Supply Trainer Demonstrator Motor Vehicle

Various hours available. Salary starting from £18,285 pro rata per annum.
Post Ref: S/TD/KOS



For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is Friday 18 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to Main bus/train Stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
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Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opens in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Section Manager Equine, Animal Care and Veterinary Nursing

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,648 per annum.

Post ref: 08/08/KOS



Temporary Train to Gain Manager

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,648 per annum.

Fixed term post for up to 18 months.

Post Ref: 08/09/KOS



Lecturer Motor Vehicle

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 per annum.

Post Ref: 07/29/KOS



Lecturer Health & Social Care

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 05/39/KOS



Lecturer Beauty Therapy

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 08/05/KOS



Key Skills Lecturer – Travel & Tourism

22.2 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 06/09/KOS



Lecturer History

9.25 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 00/131/KOS



Lecturer Dyslexia/Dyscalculia

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 per annum.

Post Ref: 06/210/KOS



Lecturer Key Skills

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 08/10/KOS



Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Basic Skills (at Canterbury and Sheppey College)

Post Ref: S/BS/KOS



Floristry

Post Ref: S/FL/KOS

Equine Studies

Post Ref: S/EQ

Health & Social Care

Post Ref: S/HSC/KOS

Early Years

Post Ref: S/EY/KOS

Health & Social Care (with a maternity nurse background)

Post Ref: S/MAT/KOS

HE Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Please specify your area/s of expertise in your application form.

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

HND Music Technology

Post Ref: S/HE/KOS

HND Music Performance

Post Ref: S/HE/KOS

BA (Hons) Creative Music Production & Technology

Post Ref: S/HE/KOS

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is Friday 18 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to Main bus/train Stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall and Gym
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Focus your vision on future conference

COMPANIES of all sizes and sectors have been invited to take part in Kent's largest business exhibition and conference.

Kent 2020 Vision aims to showcase the best in business in the county and provide them with opportunities for future growth.

More than 300 leading companies exhibited at last year's event with at least 3,000 people attending. This year's conference is expected to attract more businesses and visitors. Early bookers will be able to choose locations which suit them.

The event organised by Business Link and supported by Kent County Council, which is now in its third year, will be held at Kent Showground in Detling on Thursday, April 3.

Tony Buddin, Business Link's head of marketing, said: "To some it may seem a long way off, but I can assure you that this business-to-business event is already firmly booked in the diaries of many companies in Kent and further afield.

"Well-organised, promoted and attended exhibitions such as Kent 2020 Vision are a valuable opportunity for local businesses to promote their products or services.

"They are also useful for networking, making new contacts and signing up new clients."

To book an exhibition stand visit www.kent2020.co.uk or call 01732 878555.

Scince Park recognised as an important site

AN OFFICIAL report has given Kent Science Park the green light for its short and long-term expansion.

Planning inspector David Wildsmith's study acknowledged that the Sittingbourne site is "unique within the Thames Gateway" as "a regionally important cluster of technology and knowledge-based businesses".

He said the land to the south and south-east of the park is "the most acceptable direction for expansion".

Mr Wildsmith suggested a master plan for long-term expansion to be drawn up, but to meet shorter term needs he recommended planning permission be granted for limited growth outside its current boundary.

He recognised the value of the Kent Science Park Resource Centre, which offers a BSc foundation degree.

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Convincing Kent's business leaders to carry on choosing a Mercedes-Benz

Staying positive

Arguably 2008 is one of the most uncertain years for business in a decade. Here **Jo James**, director of membership services for Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce tries to gauge the overall feel for prospects in the next 12 months – and believes confidence is the key

I BELIEVE that 2008 could be described as an "interesting" year for business: it is almost as if the whole business climate is hanging on a "wait and see" situation.

The Bank of England cut the interest rate by one quarter of one per cent, but with promises of more to come in the New Year, that should be good news.

"The climate facing UK businesses has worsened, and the position will become riskier and more difficult over the next year," said the British Chambers of Commerce, in the assessment of its Quarterly Economic Survey.

But it observed: "The business sector is still strong... we urge the Government to pay particular attention to threats facing small businesses."

Dennis Turner, Chief Economist of HSBC Bank, commenting in the bank's December economic commentary on the interest rate cut by the Bank of England said: "The behaviour of the labour market confirms that the economy remains in reasonable shape. New jobs are still being created, employment in the three months to September hit a new all-time high and the claimant count measure of unemployment fell back to 825,000, the lowest for three years.

"It appears to be fear of what is to come rather than what has already happened that forced the Monetary Policy Committee's hand."

The UK Government has managed to delay implementation of the EU Agency Workers Directive, which could potentially cost UK businesses up to 250,000 jobs, according to the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

David Frost, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "The proposals in the directive unfairly impact on the UK



KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ASHFORD CANTERBURY MAIDSTONE WEST KENT



CONFIDENCE: Jo James, from Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce says we should not have a negative attitude

economy as we currently employ a third of all EU agency workers. The Directive also risks the established flexibility of our labour market, which has been a major factor driving job creation." The legislation will be discussed again next year.

The Halifax has reported the third consecutive monthly fall in house prices, the first time this has happened since 1995. Consumer confidence indicators are at their lowest levels for five years.

In an unprecedented move, central banks around the world took coordinated action to boost liquidity, announcing steps to make it easier for stressed banks to access cash in the hopes of quelling the knock-on impact of the credit crunch. But if that does not work, what then?

Wow! Hold on to your hats, business people – we might be in for a rough ride.

There again, we might not. It does seem to

me that is precisely where we are – nowhere precise. In all the years I have been involved in business support, I don't think we have ever been in such an unpredictable position.

There is an optimistic view. If all these "wait and see" aspects work out on the positive side the economic stability and prosperity we have enjoyed for the last few years will continue.

I think we can all contribute to the positive. All the indications are that we are doing quite well at the minute, thank you – but everybody seems to think that things are bound to go bad.

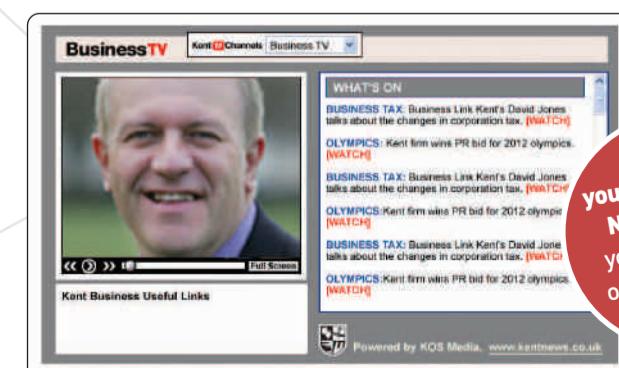
This is a negative attitude, which can in itself contribute to economic turn-down. There is such a thing as "talking down" the economy. I'm not suggesting that we should ignore indicators and act irresponsibly, but confidence – in consumers and businesses – is catching.

Let us all have a Happy New Year, and look on the bright side!

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Picture SIMON HARRIS

DISAPPOINTMENT: Ashford Town only picked up one point from their two games over the Christmas period but the signs are encouraging for boss Steve Lovell

Late goal denies Lovell victory at former club

FOOTBALL

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

Sittingbourne 1 Ashford Town 1

A 94th minute equaliser from Hicham Akhazzan denied former Sittingbourne manager Steve Lovell a priceless win at Bourne Park.

Former Brickie Mark Lovell had given Ashford a seventh minute lead with a neat finish after being put through by strike partner Paul Jones.

The away side dominated much of the game as neither side created any clear cut chances until the end of the game.

On Steve Lovell's return to Sittingbourne after leaving the club for Ashford in November, his side looked in control after taking the lead and things were in their favour after Bourne striker Sabeur Trabelsi was shown his second yellow card of the game for an innocuous challenge on the hour mark.

Substitute Walid Matata should have made the game safe when he ran clean through in the 93rd minute, but he screwed his effort wide.

Then, with time added on, a lofted ball into the Ashford box somehow fell to Akhazzan who twisted and shot into the bottom corner to give his side a share of the spoils.

Lovell told Yourashford: "It was a poor game and an ugly game of football, which to be honest, we didn't play well in. We kept giving the ball away and I don't think we got going. I am disappointed to lose the two points at the end because I think the referee played eight minutes on the end, he said he played four, but on my watch it was eight.

"The boys hung on and battled hard, we scored a goal ruled out for off-side and then Walid went through and could have killed it off."

It was a disappointing Christmas period for the Nuts and Bolts who lost on Boxing Day 2-1 at home to rivals Dover Athletic. A goal in the first half for Paul Jones gave Ashford the lead, before two strikes from Frannie Collin gave Dover all three points.

Ashford men ready to make history

HOCKEY

UNBEATEN league leaders Ashford have one eye on making history as they look forward to resuming their league campaign later this month.

The club's 1st XI are five points clear at the halfway point in the season, with ten wins and a draw from their 11 games.

If they can go on to secure promotion, it will be the highest an Ashford men's team will have ever climbed.

Team captain Chris Smith said: "Making history is something to really fight for. We have finished second in the league the last two years, so this year promotion is our target."

"It has been a great start to the season, no one has really stood out this year as it has been a real team performance – every week we produce the same quality."

"If we carry on winning we should have the league wrapped up



GUNNING FOR THE TITLE: Ashford men's 1st XI hope to secure the title and become the best men's team in the club's history

with a couple of games to spare."

The side almost made it to the winter break with a perfect record, but played out a goalless draw to nearest rivals Worthing in treacherous conditions in their last match.

The Sussex club appear to be the only team capable of challenging

Ashford for the title, with third-placed Blackheath trailing by an almost insurmountable 13 points.

A solid defence has been the backbone to Ashford's success so far this season, conceding a miserly 12 goals in 11 games, just over half the amount Worthing have let in.

League matches resume on

January 12 when Ashford host mid-table Tunbridge Wells at Ball Lane.

Smith and his team will hope for a repeat of the result when the sides met on the first day of the season, as Ashford ran out 3-1 winners to begin their charge to the title.

yourashford REVIEW OF THE YEAR

It's been an eventful year of sport in the county

THE biggest event in the 2007 sporting calendar was the Tour de France which swept through the streets of Kent, but there were a number of highlights in the county last year.

JANUARY: Maidstone United moved one step closer to a return to the town after work began on a new ground at the former Ministry of Defence site in James Whatman Way. The club acquired a 99-year lease on the site, courtesy of a £98,000 council loan.

FEBRUARY: Former Arsenal and England striker Ian Wright became a director of Ryman Division One South strugglers Ashford Town. Wright hoped to make an impact on the club's youth set-up by taking the role of director of football strategy.

MARCH: After seven years in the wilderness, plans to revive Canterbury City Football Club were given the green light. The club folded in 1999 due to lack of interest, but at a public meeting, the club were given the go-ahead to join the British Energy County League.

APRIL: Margate boxer Mehrdad Takaloo lost his WBU Welterweight crown in front of 35,000 fans at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. Takaloo was defeated on points in his title fight with Michael Jennings from Chorley.

MAY: Steve Bennett from Orpington became the first referee to take charge of an FA Cup final at the new Wembley Stadium, as Chelsea defeated Manchester United 1-0. Bennett said: "It's every referee's dream to officiate the cup final and I guess it makes it extra special because of where it's taking place and the teams that are involved."

JUNE: Kent cricket coach Graham Ford caused controversy after he appeared to verbally accept a one-year deal to coach the India national side. After the South African travelled to Chennai for an interview, he declined the role to remain at Kent.

JULY: The sun-drenched streets of Kent hosted one of the world's biggest sporting events in the form of the Tour de France. More than two million people lined the 126-mile stage, which took in Dartford, Medway, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells and Ashford.

AUGUST: Kent lifted their first trophy in six years after beating Gloucestershire in the final of the Twenty20 Cup at Edgbaston. Ryan McLaren starred, taking the first hat-trick in a Twenty20 final.

SEPTEMBER: Gillingham chairman Paul Scally began his search for a new manager after Ronny Jepson quit the club. Jepson offered his resignation on September 9 after losing five of the first six games to end his 22-month spell at the Kent club.

OCTOBER: The England rugby team displayed great courage in reaching the World Cup final, no more so than ex-Tunbridge Wells schoolboy Martin Corry. The Leicester Tigers forward missed out on the victorious 2003 campaign Down Under, but was instrumental in helping England overcome Australia and France before losing to South Africa in the final.

NOVEMBER: Gillingham ended their eight-week search for a manager when former Stevenage and Grays boss Mark Stimson was installed. Chairman Paul Scally interviewed several candidates, but was convinced he had found the right man. He said: "Managers at a very senior level have said they believe he is a fantastic coach and manager and he is going to go on and do very well."

DECEMBER: Sir Trevor Brooking took time out of his role in offering the England job to Fabio Capello, to support Kent FA's blueprint for grassroots football to 2012. Sir Trevor said: "Football is perceived to be awash with money, but at community level that is far from the case."

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